Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of
Environment and Parks

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TWEEDSMUIR

MASTER PLAN

July, 1987

Ministry of Environment and Parks
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Div.

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Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Environment and Parks

Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the draft Master Plan for Tweedsmuir Park and Recreation Area. The plan presents the proposed direction for the management of Tweedsmuir and incorporates much of the information provided by the public at the recent open houses and through the mail.

Would you please review the draft plan and provide my staff with your written comments by September 15, 1987. They will review your thoughts on the plan at that time and revise the document for the Minister's approval.

Please send your comments to:

Draft Tweedsmuir Master Plan
B.C. Parks
#308, 1011 Fourth Avenue
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 3H9

I wish to thank you for your participation up to this point in the planning process. Your ideas on Tweedsmuir have been of great assistance to my staff in preparing the draft plan. I look forward to your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

T. O. Moore
Regional Director
Northern B.C. Region

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PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

1. Tweedsmuir is the only provincial or national park that contains a combination of the Western Mountains and the Interior Plateau. It contains provincially and nationally significant features and is the largest block of protected wilderness in B.C.

2. Tweedsmuir's diversity and access creates a unique range of wilderness recreation opportunities. Over 90% of the park and recreation area are zoned 'Wilderness' to ensure long-term protection of Tweedsmuir's wilderness values.

3. Mineral development south of Eutsuk Lake poses a serious threat to wilderness values. Every effort will be made to acquire the existing mineral claims and reclassify the land to Class A Park status. The remainder of the Recreation Area will be considered for reclassification after a minimum 10 year period if its mineral potential is low. The status of the Lindquist Lake area will be reviewed if a mine goes ahead.

4. The guiding philosophy will be to allow natural forces such as fire and infestation to go unchecked as much as possible. However protection of valued resources such as wildlife habitat and recreation facilities will require an active management of the resources in many areas of Tweedsmuir.

5. Tweedsmuir's immense size will be used to provide separate areas for guided/resident hunting, resident-only hunting and no hunting. The Eutsuk Lake area and all of the park south of the Dean River will be closed to hunting.

6. Access will be limited to protect wilderness values. No new roads will be built. Trail access will only be improved in south Tweedsmuir and around Eutsuk Lake. Much of Tweedsmuir will remain without trail access. Aircraft may be used for drop off and pick up purposes only.

7. Eutsuk Lake and south Tweedsmuir's Atnarko Valley, Rainbow Range and Caribou Mountain areas have high recreation potential. Improved information and promotional efforts will encourage use in these areas.

8. Commercial recreation services will play an important role in providing recreation opportunities. Opportunities will be provided for fish guiding in the central park area.

9. Priorities for improved recreation opportunities and services are:

a) Highway Corridor -

- construct an Atnarko Valley viewpoint in the Heckman Pass area,

- establish a Rainbow Range viewpoint at the east portal of the park,

- provide additional day hike trails.

b) Backcountry -

- add connecting trails in the Rainbow Range area to create a system of loop trails and establish campsites and cabins in association with this trail system,

- develop a series of loop trails in the Caribou Mountain-Turner Lake area for day and overnight use,

- upgrade the rail portage and add campsites on Eutsuk, Pondosy and Whitesail Lakes,

- add day hike trails in the Eutsuk Lake area,

- establish a resident-only hunting area between Eutsuk Lake and the Dean River and provide for horse packing in the area,

- issue angling guide permits for the Sigutlat-Qualcho Lake area in central Tweedsmuir.

SECTION 1 - PARK ROLE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Tweedsmuir is the largest provincial park in British Columbia, totaling about 1 million hectares. It is located on the eastern edge of the Coast Mountains in west-central British Columbia about 360 km west of Williams Lake and 65 km south of Burns Lake.

The park was established in 1938. Over the years its boundary and status have changed a number of times. In 1987 most of the park was reclassified from Class B to A status and the Tweedsmuir Recreation Area was created over portions of the former Class B Park as well as a new addition in the Rainbow Range.

The park includes portions of the Coast Mountains and the Interior Plateau and a variety of scenic, recreation, and natural features such as waterfalls, lakes and rivers, glaciers, mountains, volcanic features, wildlife, and an historic trail.

Highway 20, the road connecting Williams Lake and Bella Coola, passes through south Tweedsmuir. The remainder of the park cannot be reached by automobile. Aircraft access is the most popular way to reach most of the park lakes. In the north, the nearest road access is to the north shore of Ootsa Lake, south of Burns Lake. A boat launch at Wistaria provides boat access to Ootsa Lake. Boaters travel down Ootsa to Chikamin Bay where a rail portage links Ootsa and Eutsuk Lakes.

Use is light in most of the park because of the difficult access. The Highway 20 corridor camping facilities provide about 2600 camper nights each year and the picnic facilities are used about 6000 times annually. About 200 boats use Eutsuk Lake each year.

1.2 ROLE

REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Tweedsmuir has two interconnected purposes: i) to conserve exceptional natural and cultural features and ii) to provide a range of recreation opportunities of a wilderness nature.

Conservation Role

i) Tweedsmuir is the only provincial or national park that contains a combination of the Western Mountains and the Interior Plateau physiographic divisions of B.C. Segments of several regional landscapes of three natural regions are represented including - a) the Pacific and Kitimat Ranges and the Western Chilcotin Transition Belt

of the Coast Mountains b) the Bulkley-Morice Rolling Mountains of the Hazelton-Skeena Mountains, and c) the Nechako Plateau, the Western Fraser Plateau and the Western Interior Shield Volcanoes of the Interior Plateau. (Figure 1)

ii) The park contains nationally and provincially significant features including the Rainbow Range, Hunlen Falls, the Alexander Mackenzie trail, Eutsuk Lake, the Atnarko Valley, the Turner Lakes and the Talchako Glacier.

iii) The park is the largest tract of protected, undisturbed land in B.C. Its large size means natural processes can be generally allowed to go unchecked providing long-term protection for the flora and fauna typical of this mountain-plateau area. The park will become increasingly important habitat for wildlife such as caribou and grizzly as land use pressure grows around the province.

Recreation Role

1) Tweedsmuir is the largest block of legally protected wilderness in the province. It provides a unique range of true wilderness activities including camping, fishing, canoeing, motorboating, hiking, horse riding, hunting and climbing. All of this use occurs far from roads and involves few encounters with other visitors.

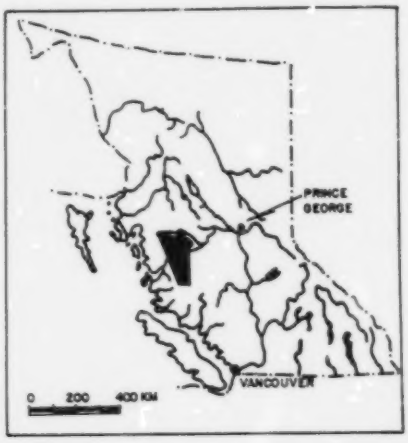
ii) A secondary role is to provide auto-access recreation opportunities for travellers of Highway 20 passing through or destined for the park.

The park is some distance from the major centers of the province and the major regional travel routes. Although visited by people from all over the world, its main source of users is the populated areas in the vicinity of its north and south boundaries.

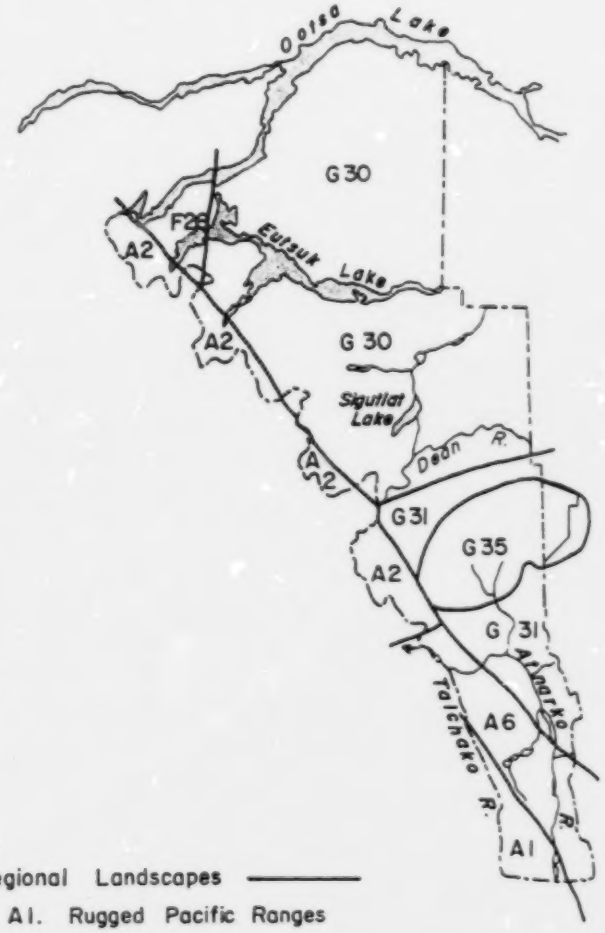
The type of park use differs from north to south because of access and the recreation opportunities available. In the north, access is by boat or float plane. The main activities are wilderness camping and fishing. A small amount of hunting and hiking also occur. In the central part, access is by float plane. Visitors mainly fish and hunt. The south area is the most readily accessible by motor vehicle and visitors camp, picnic and fish along the Atnarko River. Day hikes are taken into the nearby Rainbow Range. Hiking and horse riding are the primary uses north of the highway; canoeing and hiking occur south of the road. All areas presently receive light use.

TWEEDSMUIR
LOCATION MAP

FIGURE 1



REGIONAL LANDSCAPES



LEGEND

Park Boundary ----

Natural Regions ——

A. Coast Mountains

F. Hazelton - Skeena Mtn.

G. Interior Plateaus & Valleys

0 20 40 km

Regional Landscapes ——

A1. Rugged Pacific Ranges
A2. Kitimat Ranges
A6. Western Chilcotin Transition Belt
F26. Bulkley - Morice Rolling Mountains
G30. Nechako Plateau
G31. Western Fraser Plateau
G35. Western Interior Shield Volcanoes

Drawn By : J.M. Bowden

FIGURE : 2

TWEEDSMUIR

AREA MAP

1 : 6.3 Million

LEGEND

Park Boundary	.....
International Boundary	—·—·—
Highway, Main Road	———
Scheduled Air Service	*
Float Plane Charter	Ⓕ
Boat Launch	Ⓑ

DRAWN BY: J.M. BOWDEN

TWEEDSMUIR

FIGURE : 3

PARK MAP

LEGEND

- PARK BOUNDARY
- TWEEDSMUIR RECREATION AREA
- MAIN ROAD
- TOTE ROAD
- TRAIL
- GLACIER

0 10 20 30

DRAWN BY: J.M. BOWDEN

1.3 ZONING

Zoning is used to indicate the type of development and recreational use and the type of atmosphere that is appropriate in the different areas of the park. (Figure 4) The zones dictate the type of access permitted and the level of use that is desirable. Management of the resources is guided by the zoning.

Other factors may also influence recreational use. For example, hunting can be banned in any zone if there is a concern for other users or a desire to provide wildlife viewing opportunities.

The zones are primarily a tool to guide recreational use. The zones influence but do not dictate resource management. They are not intended to dictate how activities will be provided. For example commercial recreation services can occur in any zone to meet management objectives.

i) Frontcountry Areas - Intensive Recreation Zone and Subzones

Areas that are directly accessible by road and that contain facilities for the auto-access travellers are zoned 'Intensive Recreation'. The Highway 20 Corridor is the only 'Intensive Recreation' zone in Tweedsmuir. No other roads will be developed. The zone contains subzones where facilities will be concentrated (Development) and a 'Special Feature' subzone where cultural features are to be recognized and protected. The remainder of the corridor is 'Parkway' subzone in which scenic values are emphasized.

ii) Backcountry Areas - Natural Environment and Wilderness Zones

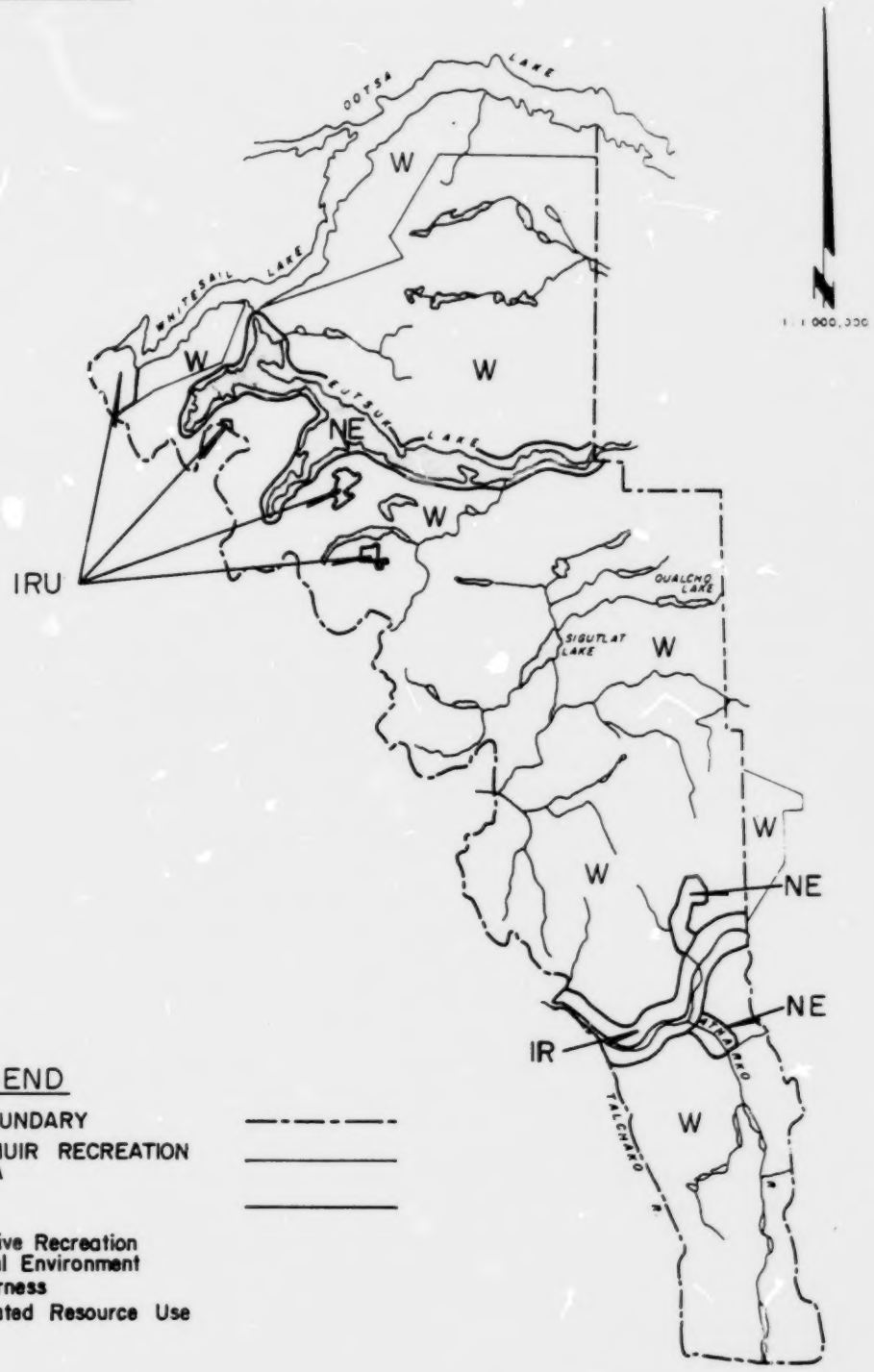
Two types of backcountry zones are used to create a range of park areas that differ in terms of access, recreation opportunity and facility.

Under Tweedsmuir's former Class B status, 'Nature Conservancy' zones were established in the Eutsuk Lake and Rainbow Range areas to prevent mineral claims from being staked. These two areas have become the most popular backcountry destinations in Tweedsmuir. Their current use and management is clearly contrary to the purpose of nature conservancies which are non-motorized zones where no facilities are provided and use is very low. The change to Class A Park status provides the protection intended by the former nature conservancy zones. The revised zoning will continue the 'no hunting' status over the most important part of the former Eutsuk Nature Conservancy and all of the former Rainbow Nature Conservancy. In addition the 'no hunting' status has been expanded to include all of the land from the Dean River to the southern park boundary.

TWEEDSMUIR

FIGURE 4

ZONING



1 : 1 000 000

LEGEND

PARK BOUNDARY

TWEEDSMUIR RECREATION AREA

ZONES

IR Intensive Recreation
NE Natural Environment
W Wilderness
IRU Integrated Resource Use

0 10 20 30 40 km

DRAWN BY: J M BOWDEN

Natural Environment Zone

This backcountry zone is the most readily accessible. Motorized access is permitted. 'Natural Environment' zones have been designated in three areas, i) the Atnarko tote road, which connects with Highway 20, ii) the snowmobile area in Heckman Pass, and iii) Eutsuk and Pondosy Lakes, a popular motorboating area. Each is relatively accessible and receives a moderate level of use. Facilities are at a level to satisfy user needs and concentrate use to protect the environment.

Wilderness Zone

These roadless areas provide the greatest range of backcountry activities in a natural, undisturbed setting. Most wilderness use will occur in this zone. Motorized access is prohibited but float planes may be used for drop-off purposes. Facilities are at a minimal level.

Almost all of the Park and Recreation Area is zoned 'Wilderness'. 'Wilderness' zones are designated over three areas: i) Caribou Mountain-Turner Lake-Knot Lakes, ii) Rainbow-Sigutlat and iii) the Quanchus Mountains. Although zoned 'Wilderness', large portions of the Rainbows will remain defacto 'Nature Conservancy' since they will be undeveloped and unused.

The Caribou Mountain-Turner Lake 'Wilderness' zone is one of the prime canoeing and hiking areas in Tweedsmuir. The area is easily reached and will become a very popular hiking destination.

The Rainbow -Sigutlat 'Wilderness' zone consists of three areas zoned 'Wilderness' for different reasons.

- The Rainbows-Dean River area is zoned 'Wilderness' because it is the most popular hiking and horse riding area in Tweedsmuir. It is easily reached and use is expected to continue to grow. A very active management role will be required.

- The Sigutlat Lake area is a fly-in fishing and hunting destination.

- The Chikamin Range-Bone Mountain area will be an important day hiking area for Eutsuk Lake boaters.

The Quanchus Mountains 'Wilderness' zone encompasses the area between Eutsuk and Ootsa Lakes. This is a fly-in hunting and fishing area.

iii) Recreation Areas - Integrated Resource Use Zone

The three groups of mineral claims southwest of Eutsuk Lake and the former mining area near Lindquist Lake, all now part of Tweedsmuir Recreation Area, are zoned 'Integrated Resource Use' to accommodate mineral activities. Resource use takes precedent over recreation in these zones. Recreation and conservation values take precedent elsewhere in the Recreation Area.

Section 3 provides details on the management plans for each zone.

SECTION 2 - PARK MANAGEMENT

2.1 Natural Resource Management Objectives and Policies

The objective is to manage the natural resources to ensure long-term protection and diversity of the environment and the retention of the wilderness nature of the park. A primary objective will be to let nature take its course wherever possible.

2.1.1 LAND AND TENURES (Figure 5)

Park Boundaries

The present boundaries include adequate representation of the regional landscapes in this part of the province. No park additions or deletions are required. However the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area should be reclassified in future to Class A Park to protect the eastern flank of the shield volcano from resource use if no measurable mineral potential is found. The land covered by the existing mineral claims should be reclassified to Class A Park when the claims lapse. The Ootsa and Whitesail portions of the Recreation Area should be reviewed for possible reclassification to Class A Park if their mineral potential is determined to be low and their importance for wildlife has been established. The status of the Lindquist Lake area should be reviewed if mine development goes ahead.

Although the present boundaries encompass many excellent examples of the geologic and hydrologic features of the area, there are features along the western boundary such as Stupendous Mountain and the Talchako Glacier that would increase the recreation and conservation value of the park. However mineral and forest potential prevent their addition to the park. B.C. Parks will work with the ministries responsible to ensure that land use takes into account these values.

The scenic and recreational values of the Dean River east and west of the park should be the subject of a Recreation Corridor Study coordinated by the Ministry of Forests and Lands. The study should determine if any land should be added to Tweedsmuir.

The present park boundaries include only a portion of the habitat used by caribou and grizzly bear. Large tracts of land are involved which have been committed to other uses preventing their addition to the park. B.C. Parks will continue to participate with other agencies in the coordinated management of these species to ensure their long-term viability.

TWEEDSMUIR

FIGURE: 5

EXISTING LEGAL TENURES

LEGEND

PARK BOUNDARY
TWEEDSMUIR RECREATION AREA
PRIVATE LAND

PARK USE PERMITS

1. B.C.F.S. Lookout
2. M.O.E. Water Recorder
3. C.W.S. Storage Building
4. M.O.E. Water Recorder
5. M.O.E. Stream Gauge
6. Ulkatcho Smoke House
7. Cattle Grazing
8. Hwys. Gravel Pit
9. M.O.E. Snow Course
10. Fed. Fish. Cabin & Counting Tower
11. ALCAN Reservoir Clearing
12. B.C.F.S. Helipad
13. B.C. Hydro Power Line
14. B.C.F.S. Repeater
15. Hwys. Repeater
16. Hwys. R/W
17. Hwys. Gravel Pit
18. Fed. Fish. Spawning Channel

0 10 20 30 40km

DRAWN BY: J.M. BOWDEN

Inholdings

There are 28 privately owned parcels of land in the Atnarko Valley. Two have been developed for commercial recreation. The development of the non-commercial properties, particularly in the upper Atnarko, would seriously change the character of the park.

The objective will be to acquire the properties. As an interim measure, B.C. Parks will encourage the Central Coast Regional District to establish a zoning by-law to control development of these properties. B.C. Parks will also seek some form of agreement, such as a restrictive covenant, with the Upper Atnarko landowners to limit development.

Grazing

A permit to graze cattle for domestic purposes was issued in the Lonesome Lake area when this was part of the Class B Park. This will be cancelled when no longer required by the permittee. Existing grazing committments in the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area will be accommodated. These will be eliminated when the Recreation Area land is reclassified to Class A Park status. No additional committments will be made for this purpose.

Water Licenses

Four conditional water licenses have been issued in or adjacent to Tweedsmuir. Alcan has a license to store and divert water that affects the level of Ootsa and Whitesail Lakes. Their south shoreline is part of the Recreation Area. The other three licenses are in the Stuie area. Two are for domestic and/or irrigation purposes; the other is for the fish spawning channel.

B.C. Parks will cooperate with the Water Management Branch in the management of these licenses and ensure that resource values are protected.

Minerals

Mineral resource use is incompatible with the purposes of the Class A Park and is not permitted under the Park Act. No mineral claims will be established in the Class A Park.

Three blocks of mineral claims are located south of Eutsuk Lake in the Tweedsmuir Recreation Area. The government recently indicated that mineral exploration will be permitted on the claims. Access initially will be by air or non-motorized surface means. A Resource Use Permit will be required when exploration reaches the stage where significant disturbance of the terrain is involved. The Permit will establish stringent guidelines for the exploration and its clean-up.

Development of a mine on a claim south of Eutsuk Lake would have serious consequences for the wilderness values of the park. Every effort will be made to acquire these mineral interests. Should the mineral claims lapse, the land will be reclassified to Class A Park.

The Whitesail, Ootsa and Rainbow Range portions of the Tweedsmuir Recreation Area will be available for a time-limited period for mineral evaluation and exploration. After a minimum 10 year period these areas will be considered for reclassification to Class A Park status if measurable mineral potential is not found.

Traplines

Over 25 registered traplines are scattered over much of Tweedsmuir Park and Recreation Area. About fifteen of the traplines occur in central Tweedsmuir, between Eutsuk Lake and the Dean River. Most of the traplines are held by Indians who have traditionally used the Tweedsmuir area to support their way of life.

Trapping is a nonrecreational, commercial resource use that is inappropriate in a Class A Park. The activity may be permitted in a Recreation Area where there is no conflict with recreational use or other management objectives.

B.C. Parks will generally phase out the traplines in the Class A Park as they become available. Trapping will continue in the meantime in the portion of the Class A Park from the Rainbow Range to Eutsuk Lake. Trapping will be discontinued in this area and in the Recreation Area when it conflicts with other uses or management objectives. Priority will be given to acquisition of the traplines in the Highway 20 corridor. All of the traplines in the Park and Recreation Area will be placed under park or resource use permit to improve the management of this activity. Trapline holders will be permitted to use snowmobiles for access in association with their trapping activity. No other form of ATV use will be permitted.

Recreation Guiding

Guiding services in Tweedsmuir provide guided fishing, hunting, hiking, and horse riding opportunities. (Figure 6) Three game guides operate in north Tweedsmuir. The Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area also has a game guide area. Eight commercial operators provide fish guiding services. The four in the Eutsuk area have fish camps.

Recreation guiding provides a valuable service by expanding the wilderness recreation opportunities. This activity will generally continue. Details on the management and future direction for recreation guiding is provided in Section 2.2.2 'Visitor Opportunities'.

TWEEDSMUIR

FIGURE: 6

COMMERCIAL RECREATION SERVICES

LEGEND

PARK BOUNDARY

TWEEDSMUIR RECREATION AREA

PARK USE PERMITS

1. Hunlen Wilderness Camp
2. Tweedsmuir Ski Club Cabin
3. Nielsen/O'Meara Game Guide
4. Van Tine Game Guide
5. Van Tine Fish Camp / Guide
6. Edwards - Fish/Rec. Guide
7. Nielson/O'Meara- Fish Camp/Guide
8. Kluber Fish Camp/Guide
9. Blackwell Game Guide
10. Stewart Fish Guide
11. Dubuc Fish Camp/Guide
12. Koroluk Fish Guide
13. Dorsey- Horse Outfitting
14. Stewart - Fish Guide

0 10 20 30 40km

DRAWN BY: J.M. BOWDEN

2.1.2 WATER

Water is an important ingredient in the make-up of Tweedsmuir. The park protects portions of the headwaters of several rivers including the Dean and the Bella Coola.

The objective will be to ensure that facilities and activities do not impair the quality or quantity of water in Tweedsmuir. Industrial use of its water is incompatible with the purpose of the park. Water impoundments, diversions or other such use of waters for purposes other than small-scale fish or wildlife management projects or domestic use should not occur.

2.1.3 VEGETATION

a) General Principle

Tweedsmuir contains 6 of the 13 biogeoclimatic zones and half of the endemic plants found in the province. Outstanding contrasts exist between the vegetation of the Interior Plateau and the old growth coastal forest of the Atnarko-Bella Coola Valley.

Vegetation is an essential element of the park. A naturally evolving forest is an integral part of the park landscape. The vegetative cover is a major ingredient in a satisfying wilderness experience. Certain vegetation such as old growth forest and sub-alpine/alpine cover are recreation features. Vegetation is critical for viable wildlife populations.

Tweedsmuir's large size and diversity will provide long range ecological stability. Because of this its role as an ecologically pristine resource for species conservation or scientific study will increase in importance provided that there is adequate opportunity for ecological renewal.

The objective is to manage the vegetation to allow a naturally evolving ecosystem while protecting wildlife values and retaining vegetative resources of visual, recreational or ecological importance. The vegetation will be managed to maintain ecological diversity. The forest will also be managed to ensure protection of valuable resources outside the park.

b) Specific Policies

i) Fire

Fire is a natural agent of change that has been largely removed from the park for many years. Much of the forest cover is now homogenous and aging. Some species such as caribou benefit from an

aging forest; others such as moose require a changing forest cover. Fire aids in providing a mosaic of all-aged forest conditions which is desireable for the protection of park landscapes.

To ensure habitat for all species, wildfire may occur where there is no threat to valuable resources in and out of the park. Wildfires will be subject initially to an assessment to determine if valuable resources are threatened. Prescribed fire may be used as a management tool to protect valuable resources such as facilities, to maintain specific vegetative seral stages and to enhance wildlife habitat to ensure viability of wildlife populations. Critical wildlife habitat, particularly for caribou, and areas with special floral values will be identified and protected.

Fire management plans will identify critical vegetative resources and guide fire management in Tweedsmuir.

ii) Disease and Insects

Disease and insects have been natural factors in determining the vegetative cover over the years. Most recently the aging forest has been widely attacked by bark beetle, primarily mountain pine beetle, a phenomenon that has affected much of the Chilcotin.

The guiding priniciple in managing the beetle infestation will be to recognize that infestation is a part of the naturally evolving ecosystem. In most of the park the infestation will be monitored but no action will be taken. B.C. Parks will manage the infestation where valued resources are threatened. Control methods used will have low impact on other resources.

iii) Logging

No commercial forest use is permitted in the Class A Park. Trees will only be removed from the park for facility development, to enhance the visual resource or to reduce the tree hazard near recreation facilities.

Selective removal of trees may be considered to protect or enhance wildlife values in the Ootsa portion of the Recreation Area. However the visual values of the forest in this area will be protected and no clear-cut logging or road system will be permitted. A decision on whether to undertake wildlife habitat enhancement in the Ootsa area will only be made after the caribou habitat requirements have been determined.

iv) Recreational Use

Facilities will be developed to minimize the impact of park use on vegetation. Vegetation damaged by human activities such as hiking and horse riding will be rehabilitated. Horse use will be managed to protect the food supply of wildlife species.

2.1.4 WILDLIFE

a) General Principle

Tweedsmuir's range of climate, elevation and landform has created a multitude of wildlife habitats populated by many wildlife species. The park provides year-round habitat for such species as mountain goat, deer and black bear. Caribou and grizzly use the park but seasonally range beyond its boundaries.

The objective is to maintain the present mix of wildlife species in viable populations for their inherent value, for viewing, for hunting and for research.

Wildlife will be monitored on a regular basis and management measures will be instituted to ensure their protection. B.C. Parks will work with other agencies to protect species which range outside the park.

b) Specific Policies

i) Caribou

- Identify critical habitat for feeding, calving, and migration and manage all activities to avoid its disturbance.

- Work with other agencies to protect the Eutsuk and Rainbow caribou populations.

- Consider the establishment of caribou populations in suitable parts of Tweedsmuir. A project to transplant caribou to Caribou Mountain has been started.

- Allow the transfer of animals for similar purposes to areas outside the park when the population permits.

ii) Moose

- Maintain the population at levels necessary for long-term viability.

- Use fire to ensure adequate vegetation is available for feeding.

iii) Grizzly Bear

- Identify critical habitat for feeding and other activities and manage human activities to minimize their disturbance and avoid

grizzly-people conflicts.

- Work with other resource agencies to protect the habitat outside the park that is necessary for the survival of Tweedsmuir's grizzly population.

iv) Wolves

- Predator control measures are not considered appropriate in Tweedsmuir and will not be undertaken.

v) Swans

- The feeding of the swans at Lonesome Lake by the early homesteaders and continued to the present with the financial support of the Canada Wildlife Service has created a situation where wildlife are encouraged to winter in the area in numbers greater than the natural range can sustain. This conflicts with the wildlife objectives for the park. B.C. Parks will take no active role in the feeding of swans at Lonesome Lake.

vi) Cooperative Wildlife Management

- B.C Parks will work with the Ministry of Forests and Lands and other land management agencies to ensure that caribou migration routes and winter habitat needs are protected.

- B.C. Parks will continue to work with Wildlife Branch staff in the development of hunting regulations and guide quotas to ensure long-term protection of wildlife populations.

vii) Bear-Human Conflict

- Grizzly bears frequent the Atnarko River area during the salmon spawning period. This creates a serious hazard for humans particularly in the vicinity of the campgrounds and the spawning channel and along the Atnarko trail. B.C. Parks will work with Federal Fisheries to ensure the public is advised about this hazard.

viii) Wildlife Viewing

- Tweedsmuir has a diverse wildlife population that is quite accessible in many areas. B.C. Parks will provide large areas in north and south Tweedsmuir for wildlife viewing and where no hunting will be permitted. Opportunities will be provided for viewing all of the major species in the park.

2.1.5 FISH

a) General Principle

A natural fish population is found in most of the park waters. Angling is an integral part of most wilderness visits in the park. The Atnarko and Dean Rivers are also important steelhead and salmon spawning rivers. A spawning channel for pink salmon and rearing channels for chinook were recently established to enhance sports and commercial fishing in the Atnarko River.

The objective is to manage the park to conserve the fish population, ensure the quality of its habitat and provide a variety of angling opportunities.

b) Specific Policies

i) Native Species

- Maintain the present mix of species

ii) Non-Native Species

- Non-native species will not be introduced

iii) Stocking and Enhancement

- Stocking of native species using Tweedsmuir Park stock is acceptable in intensive use zones in waters which have a fish population. Naturally barren waters will not be stocked.

- Enhancement projects to improve natural spawning capability are acceptable in intensive use zones. Projects will be small in scale and in keeping with overall management objectives for the area. Larger scale enhancement projects such as fish hatcheries will not be considered.

iv) Angling

- Angling is an appropriate activity in all areas of the park.

- Fishing regulations will ensure viability of fish populations. Monitoring and fish studies will be used to adjust regulations.

2.1.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) General Principle

The park contains a number of documented cultural resources including archeological and historic features. The best known is the Alexander Mackenzie trail, an Indian trading route, which passes through the park.

Cultural sites will be protected. Planning for recreation facilities will take these sites into account and sensitive sites will be avoided. The Heritage Conservation Branch will be consulted in this process.

b) Specific Policies

i)Archeological Sites

Archeological sites occur in the Chikamin portage, Dean River-Mackenzie Valley, Anahim Peak, Atnarko and Hotnarko areas. Archeological resources include Indian encampments and meeting places, trade routes or trails, pictographs, obsidian deposits, and fish curing sites. Some features such as the trails can be used without loss of the resource. Others such as the pictographs can be easily disturbed. Development will avoid sensitive sites. Opportunities are available to interpret such features as Friendly Village and the obsidian deposits.

ii) Historic Features

Old trails, cabins and other early evidence of man add a great deal to the wilderness flavour of the park. Historic features such as the Mackenzie trail and the Walker and Dorsey cabins have a role in present park use. The important historic features of the park will be interpreted for the public. The Edwards homestead, a feature of regional historic value, would be an important addition if acquired.

iii) Alexander Mackenzie Trail

The most scenic portion of this nationally significant trail is located in south Tweedsmuir. The trail is very accessible from Highway 20 in the Burnt Bridge Creek area and is one of the most popular features in the park.

The Federal and Provincial governments have recognized the importance of this trail under the 'Agreement for Recreation and Conservation'. The trail will be designated as a Heritage Site. A Master Development Plan has been prepared which will guide the management of the trail.

Management of south Tweedsmuir will ensure the protection of the trail. The trail adds an important dimension to the attractiveness of south Tweedsmuir for day and overnight hiking and horse riding. The trail will be a major feature in promotional efforts for the area. Every opportunity will be taken to enhance the public's understanding of this feature.

2.1.7 RESEARCH

Large parks are often the focus of scientific study because of their size and their undisturbed state.

The objective is to permit research in scientific fields that are pertinent to the park and that will increase our understanding of the resources and improve our ability to manage.

2.2 VISITOR SERVICES OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

2.2.1 INTRODUCTION

a) General Concept

Tweedsmuir's abundance of features, its immense size and diversity and its lack of roads and other development creates a unique opportunity to manage the park for a wide range of wilderness recreation activities.

The objectives are i) to provide a range of wilderness recreation opportunities that emphasizes different modes of access, levels of development and levels of use and ii) to provide a range of easily accessible recreation opportunities along the Highway 20 corridor.

b) Access Strategy

Direct road access is limited to the Highway 20 corridor through south Tweedsmuir. Access to the rest of the park has been by float plane, boat, foot or horse. Limited access has protected the wilderness values by restricting the number of park users.

The strategy for recreational access will be to limit improvements to those absolutely necessary for wilderness recreation objectives. No new roads will be developed. Trail improvements will be mainly in the more accessible southern areas. Horse use will be permitted in most of Tweedsmuir. Aircraft access will be permitted for drop off and pick up purposes only. Snowmobiling will occur only in the designated area in south Tweedsmuir.

c) Information Strategy

The strategy will be to emphasize the wilderness nature of Tweedsmuir, encourage the public through promotional efforts to recreate in certain areas, and ensure the public is prepared for the dangers of the park.

2.2.2 VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES (Figures 7 and 8)

a)Auto-access Sightseeing and Destination

Auto-access will be restricted to the Highway 20 corridor of the park. It is expected that use of the road by tourists passing through

FIGURE: 7

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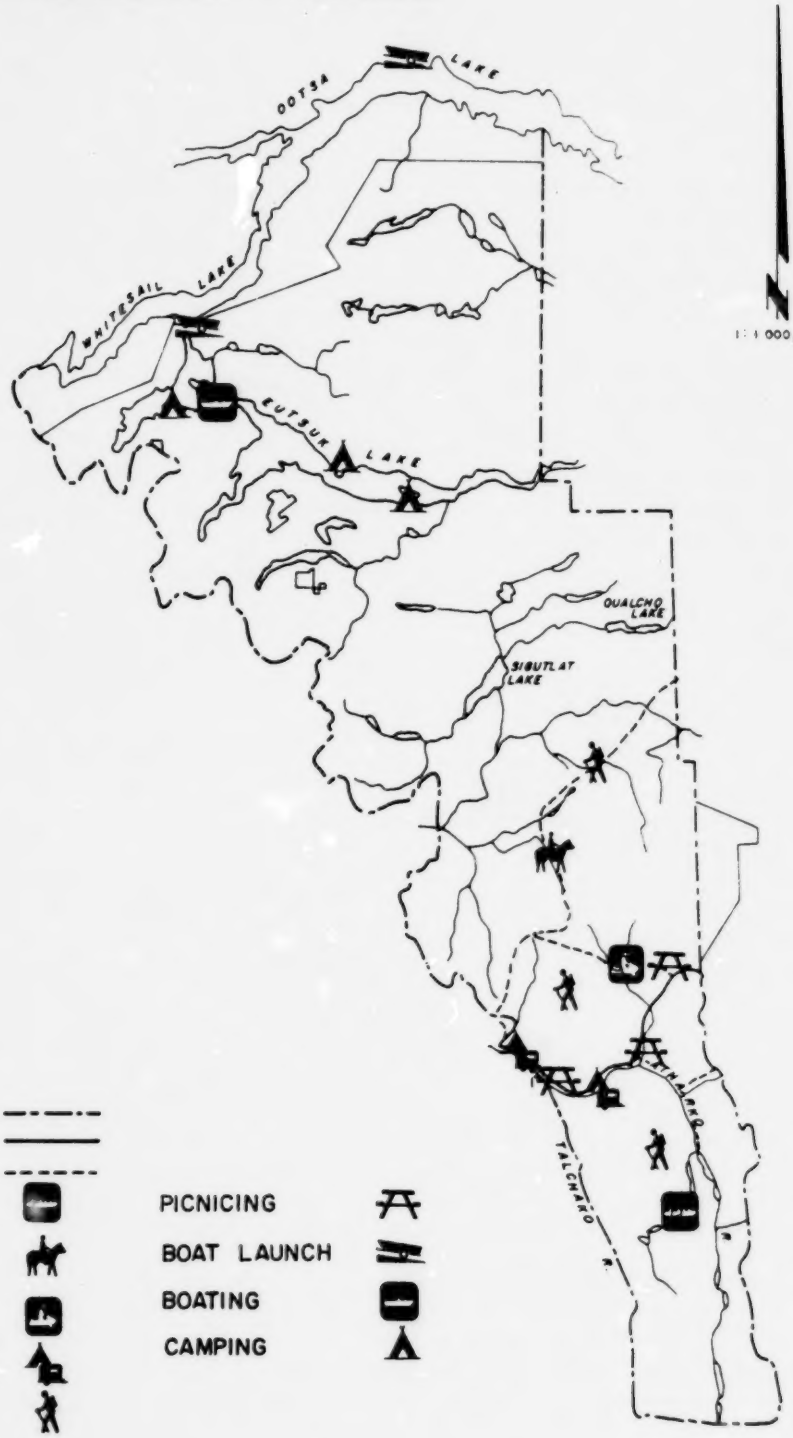
EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES



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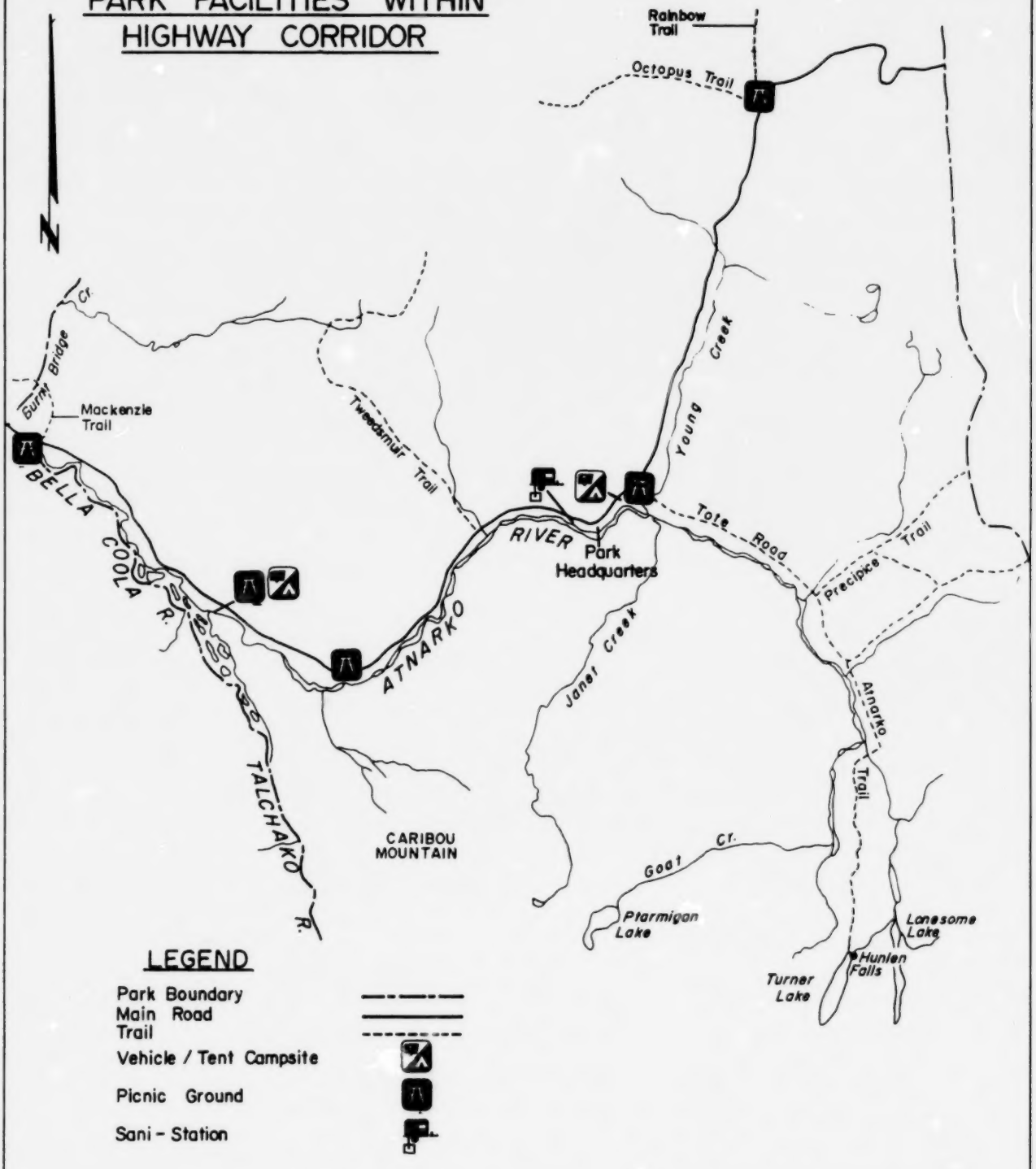
TWEEDSMUIR

FIGURE: 8

PARK FACILITIES WITHIN HIGHWAY CORRIDOR



LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Main Road
- Trail
- Vehicle / Tent Campsite
- Picnic Ground
- Sani - Station

SCALE: 1: 160,000

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to Bella Coola or by people destined for the park will increase substantially when the paving reaches the park. Establishment of a car ferry link with points north and south would significantly increase road traffic and demand for roadside park facilities.

The objective is to provide adequate facilities along Highway 20 to encourage people to stay and enjoy the Atnarko Valley and to hike to nearby attractions.

The present level of camping facilities will likely satisfy demand for some time. A viewpoint of the Atnarko Valley is needed on the upper portion of the 'Hill' section of Highway 20 and additional day hiking opportunities are required. As use increases the picnicking opportunities will need to be upgraded.

b) Hiking

The objective will be to provide a range of hiking experiences. Parts of the park will have no formal trails. Hikers will be on their own. Other areas will have well marked trails or routes to provide hiking opportunities of one to several days in length.

The best hiking potential is south of the Dean River in the Rainbow Range and the Caribou Mountain-Turner Lake areas. These are two of the most scenic parts of Tweedsmuir and by far the most accessible. The majority of the park trails are in these areas. The Caribou Mountain-Turner Lake area provides hikes of medium to long duration. The Rainbow-Dean River area offers day hikes and overnight hikes of up to a week in length.

North Tweedsmuir has few trails but there is potential for hikes of short to medium duration in the mountains west and south of Eutsuk and for longer hikes in the Quanchus Mountains. However limited access and the rugged terrain will restrict use in these areas. Except for short hikes, hiking in north and central Tweedsmuir will be primarily attractive to people seeking a completely 'wilderness' experience.

There are limitations to the trail system in all areas of the park. North Tweedsmuir needs short trails from Eutsuk Lake to increase day use opportunities. South Tweedsmuir requires day use trails and additional connecting trails to create circle routes both north and south of the highway.

Emphasis for trail improvements will be in the south, the area of greatest potential.

c) Horse Riding

Horse riding will be encouraged in areas suitable for horse use.

Limiting factors to horse use will be the effect on terrain, the vegetation and other users and the availability of feed.

Horse riding has been a traditional use of the park. Most of the recent horse use has occurred in the area between the Dean River and Highway 20. North Tweedsmuir has had little recent horse use because of the difficulty of access.

Horse use will be concentrated between the Dean River and Highway 20 and in the Quanchus Mountains area. Riders will generally share trails with hikers. Separate trails may be required in certain areas.

Horse feed is limited in parts of the Mackenzie Valley/Rainbow area. The grazing potential of this area should be determined so that horse use guidelines can be established to protect the resource and ensure adequate feed is available for wildlife, the public and the horse outfitter using the area. Controls over the maximum size of horse parties will be required.

d) Motorboating

The objective is to provide motorboat touring and fishing opportunities on selected lakes and the facilities to allow access to and use of the lakes on an overnight basis.

Remote boating opportunities exist on Eutsuk Lake with access via Ootsa Lake. Boating, and associated fishing and camping, is the primary use of north Tweedsmuir. The rail portage that links the lakes will be upgraded and additional camping facilities established on Eutsuk.

Boat access to Ootsa Lake is at Wistaria. Local people also use a primitive launch at Andrews Bay to shorten the boat trip on Ootsa and to eliminate the dangerous stretch of water around Windy Point. The access at Andrew Bay should be legalized and the launch upgraded by B.C. Parks. Alcan will be encouraged to place marker buoys through Whitesail Reach to improve boater safety. Campsites should be established along the south shore of Whitesail Reach to increase recreational use of north Tweedsmuir.

e) Canoeing

Canoeing occurs in the Eutsuk-Pondosy Lake area and on the Turner Lake chain. Potential for canoeing also exists on other lakes such as Lonesome and Tesla. Access is primarily by float plane. Some parties reach Eutsuk via Ootsa but this can be extremely dangerous. Canoeing on Eutsuk can also be unsafe.

The objective is to provide wilderness canoeing trips of several days duration that include opportunities to enjoy other wilderness activities such as fishing, hiking and viewing of wildlife.

Canoeing will be encouraged in two areas, the Turner Lake chain-Lonesome Lake area and Pondosy Lake. Access will be mainly by float plane. The public will be discouraged from canoeing Eutsuk unless they are very experienced canoeists. Eutsuk-Pondosy canoeists will be encouraged to transport their canoes by charter boat or float plane. Rental of canoes and associated equipment will be permitted by the existing commercial operators.

f) Angling

Angling is one of the most popular activities in all areas of the park. People come by car, plane or boat to fish Tweedmuir's waters. It is also part of almost every type of recreation trip taken in Tweedsmuir. Certain activities such as motorboating and canoeing rely on fishing as a major attraction to visit an area. For other activities such as horse riding, hiking and hunting, fishing increases the enjoyment of the trip. It is critical that the fish resource be protected. Park visitation would be seriously affected if the quality of fishing were to drop significantly.

The objective is to protect the fish resource and provide a range of angling opportunities for many types of users.

B.C. Parks will monitor this activity and work with Fisheries Branch staff to protect the fish resource through the fishing regulations.

B.C. Parks will work with Federal Fisheries to improve the sports fishing on the Atnarko River. This is the only readily accessible salmon fishing area in the park. B.C. Parks will request Federal Fisheries to extend the chinook fishing season, adjust the catch and possession limits for chinook and steelhead and establish a pink salmon sport fishery.

g) Hunting

The objective is to protect the wildlife resource and provide a range of hunting opportunities. Areas where no hunting occurs will also be established for wildlife viewing and for wildlife or park visitor protection .

Conservation of the wildlife is the primary objective. Hunting opportunities will only be provided where wildlife populations permit and where there is no conflict with other uses.

Tweedsmuir will be separated into areas of guided/resident hunting, resident-only hunting, and no hunting. (Figure 9) 'No hunting' areas will be established around Eutsuk Lake and over the southern half of the park from the Dean River to the park's southern boundary. Guided hunting will occur north of Eutsuk Lake, north of

TWEEDSMUIR

FIGURE: 9

HUNTING - NO HUNTING

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Qualcho Lake and in the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area. Residents will also be able to hunt in the guided hunting areas. Resident-only hunting opportunities will be provided in the area between Eutsuk Lake and the Dean River.

Recreational hunting of all game species will occur subject to specific regulations needed to maintain the populations. Hunting for specific species will be temporarily or permanently closed when necessary for conservation purposes. B.C. Parks will work with Wildlife Branch staff to set harvest limits and guide quotas that are conservative to protect the resource.

B.C. Parks will cooperate with the Wildlife Branch to manage wildlife populations that are dependent on areas outside of the park boundaries. Specific attention will be paid to caribou and grizzly bear which are provincially important. In particular, grizzly bear management will be reviewed on an ecosystem basis to evaluate the desirability of hunting and other management actions on bear populations in the park and adjacent lands.

The resident-only hunting area will be accessible by float plane, motorboat or non-mechanized means. The area will provide opportunities to hunt for both plateau and mountain species. Hunting will be controlled through the hunting regulations. Harvest levels will be monitored. If success levels are low, B.C. Parks will consider the continuation of the resident hunting and the establishment of a new game guide area.

h) Winter Recreation

A snowmobiling area has been set aside in the Heckman Pass area for local residents. Snowmobiling and skiing occur in open areas of subalpine and do not affect other park values. The local ski club has had a ski-tow and cabin in the area for years. Recently cross-country skiers held ski races in the East Branch area using an old piece of the highway.

The objective is to provide winter recreation opportunities for local residents where natural conditions permit and where there is no threat to other resources or users.

Snowmobiling/skiing will be provided in the existing Heckman Pass 'Snowmobile Area'. Improvements will be restricted to the maintenance of existing facilities.

Local residents may also continue to use the Heckman Pass area for cross-country ski races. Improvements would be limited to trails. Users would be responsible for maintenance of the trails.

2.2.3 RECREATION SERVICES

a) General Principle

Commercial recreation services increase the range of recreation opportunities and broaden the base of park visitors. In some park areas, they generate almost all of the use.

The guides operate in a conscientious manner to protect their investment. They assist B.C. Parks by monitoring use in areas where there is limited park staff.

Commercial recreation services will be provided in Tweedsmuir to increase the variety of wilderness recreation opportunities. The type of services provided will be compatible with the conservation and the wilderness objectives. The number of guides permitted to operate will be kept to a level that satisfies demand while ensuring the protection of the resources and the financial viability of the existing operators.

The services will operate in a manner that is in keeping with the wilderness nature of the park. Improvements will be kept to a small scale and rustic in nature. Large scale accommodation such as a lodge is not appropriate in the backcountry of Tweedsmuir where preservation of wilderness is a primary objective. Commercial services will cater to small numbers of people at any one time. Their means of access will be appropriate to the situation.

b) Recreation Guiding

i) Fish Guiding

Guided angling will be permitted in the Eutsuk Lake-Quanchus Mountains area, the Sigutlat-Qualcho Lake area, along the Bella Coola and Atnarko Rivers, in the Caribou Mountain-Turner Lake area and in the Knot Lakes area.

Guides presently under permit in north Tweedsmuir and on the Atnarko River will continue to share their respective areas. No new permits will be established in these areas. However fish guiding will be permitted in association with guided canoeing on Eutsuk Lake. Guided angling permits will be issued for the Sigutlat-Qualcho Lake area. The horse outfitter will also be permitted to guide anglers in the Sigutlat-Qualcho area.

Future requests for fish guiding permits will only be considered if the fish resource can handle the added pressure and the present

fish guides cannot satisfy the demand for this service.

ii) Guided Motorboat Touring and Water Taxi Service

This activity is part of the fish guiding services on Eutsuk Lake and will be limited to the guides currently holding permits in this part of the park.

iii) Guided Canoe Touring

Limited provision may be made for canoe guiding in the Eutsuk Lake area. The Eutsuk-Pondosy area has potential for small guided parties of experienced canoeists. The permit would allow guided fishing in association with this activity. The Turner Lake chain has a recreation guiding permit that covers this activity. No additional permits will be issued for the Turner Lake chain.

iv) Guided Hiking

Limited opportunities for guided hiking will be provided from the Dean River south to the Knot Lakes area where the activity is compatible with the wilderness recreation objectives. The number of guided parties will be controlled to retain the quality of the wilderness experience for the guided hikers and other users. Guided hiking parties may make use of existing public facilities. No fixed structures such as cabins or tent frames will be permitted.

v) Horse Outfitting

This service will be provided in the area from Sigutlat-Qualcho Lake south to the highway and in the Quanchus Mountains. No new permits will be issued until the present permittees are unable to handle the demand for this activity.

The present outfitting permit area in the Rainbow Range area will be extended to the Qualcho-Sigutlat area to permit combined horse riding-fishing trips. The permittee may use existing public facilities. No fixed structures will be permitted. The outfitter will use natural feed or pellets for his horses.

vi) Game Guiding

Game guiding will be permitted in the Quanchus Mountains area, between Ootsa and Eutsuk Lakes, and in the corner of the park north of Qualcho Lake . The present guide areas north of Eutsuk Lake will be expanded to incorporate the land which was previously part of these guide areas prior to the establishment of the former nature conservancy. The guide area in the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area will be phased out to meet the objective of no hunting in the area south of the Dean River.

vii) Equipment Rental

The present operators will be permitted to rent recreation equipment appropriate to their clients' wilderness needs.

viii) Accommodation

Commercial camps consisting of cabins or tent frames will be permitted in association with game and fish guiding services in north Tweedsmuir and with the wilderness camp on Turner Lake. Fixed commercial accommodation will not be permitted anywhere else in Tweedsmuir.

ix)Aircraft Access

Commercial transport of the public by aircraft will be permitted for drop off and pick up purposes only.

2.2.4 MANAGEMENT SERVICES

a) Headquarters

Staff will continue to manage the park from two centers - i) Atnarko headquarters for south Tweedsmuir and ii) Chikamin Bay for the north.

b) Park Management

The primary emphasis will be on maintaining the Eutsuk Lake and Highway 20 corridor facilities over the summer season. The next priority will be for facility maintenance and patrol of the Rainbow Range and Turner Lake areas.

B.C. Parks will seek the assistance of user groups and the commercial operators to monitor park use and advise of problems. Local groups will be invited to assist with specific trail projects where possible.

2.2.5 MARKETING

a) General Strategy

The objective is to optimize participation in activities that fit within the overall conservation and recreation objectives of the park.

The strategy will be i) to encourage use in areas, such as the Highway Corridor, Rainbow Range, Turner Lake, and Eutsuk Lake, having high recreation potential and capable of handling at least moderate levels of use and ii) to encourage participation in adventure tourism activities. Much of the park will be excluded from promotional efforts to ensure that use remains low and wilderness values are retained in these areas.

Promotion will focus on a package of recreation opportunities available in the area and will be aimed at specific segments of the public. B.C. Parks will work with the Cariboo and North-by-Northwest Tourist Associations, the local communities and the park's commercial recreation services sector to develop the tourism potential of Tweedsmuir. The commercial operators of the park will be encouraged to collectively market the park opportunities.

The major part of the promotional effort will focus on the southern part of Tweedsmuir which has the greatest tourism potential. The promotional work will tie into the regional tourism plan for this area. Use of the area is expected to grow as road access improves and the area's attractions become better known. This will be particularly accelerated if a ferry route links the area with Vancouver and Prince Rupert creating several attractive circle routes.

b) Product Lines

Recreation activities or 'packages' that are to be promoted fall into two catgegories: i) auto-access and ii) backcountry.

i) Auto-access

South Tweedsmuir will offer a 3 day camping-day hiking package that includes opportunities to sightsee in the Atnarko-Bella Coola area, fish the rivers of the area, and hike to nearby features such as the Rainbow Range and the Alexander Mackenzie trail. This package could be promoted as part of a Highway 20 - Chilcotin tour.

The Atnarko Valley also offers opportunities for day visits to view salmon spawning either at the Federal Fisheries spawning facility or along the Bella Coola and Atnarko Rivers.

ii) Backcountry

Eutsuk - The Eutsuk area will be packaged as a 3 to 7 day motorboat trip to camp, fish, motorboat tour, hike to nearby features and view wildlife. This will tie in with the present efforts of the fish guides in the area.

Rainbow - This area will offer a 3 to 5 day wilderness hike or horse trip into the Rainbow Range-Octopus Lake-Mackenzie Pass area to sightsee, camp and view wildlife.

Mackenzie trail - This provides a 5 to 7 day trip along the historic trail which can includes side trips into the Rainbow Range. Activities include sightseeing, fishing, camping, and wildlife viewing.

Turner Lake Chain - This is a 3 to 5 day wilderness canoe trip on a string of 7 lakes. Opportunities in the package include canoeing, camping, fishing, hiking, sightseeing and wildlife viewing.

Caribou Mountain - This package provides a 3 to 5 day wilderness hike that could include the Hunlen Falls/ Turner Lake area. Hikers would be able to sightsee, camp, fish, and study nature.

Knot Lakes-Talchako Glacier - This area can provide a 7 to 10 day wilderness hiking trip in a remote part of the park. Recreation opportunities include hiking, fishing, camping, sightseeing and nature study. The Monarch Mountain area provides climbing opportunities.

Fly-in fishing - Tweedsmuir provides numerous opportunities for fly-in fishing trips to such lakes as Knot, Turner, Tanya, Sigutlat, Qualcho, Tesla, Eutsuk and the lakes in the Quanchus Mountains area. Several of the lakes have fish guides who offer accommodation and equipment rental.

Guided hunting - North Tweedsmuir provides opportunities for fly-in guided hunting and associated activities such as camping, fishing and sightseeing. Guide camps are provided in the Quanchus Mountains area.

Resident hunting - B.C. residents can hunt for plateau and mountain species in the Tesla-Sigutlat Lakes area south of Eutsuk Lake. Access is by float plane, motorboat or non-motorized means. The area also offers hunters opportunities for fishing, camping, and sightseeing.

c) Markets

The present markets for Tweedsmuir are not well documented or understood. It is known that local residents are a major source of use in the north and south ends of the park. The park also attracts users from around B.C., the nearby states and provinces and some foreign users. Commercial guided services rely on the out-of-province market.

Market segmentation research needs to be done to better determine where marketing efforts should be placed. B.C. Parks will work with the Cariboo Tourist Association to determine market segmentation. In the meantime, the promotion efforts will focus on the residents of the region, the potential automobile-based tourist market travelling through the Cariboo, and the adventure tourism market.

SECTION 3 - PARK UNIT PLANS

The preceding sections dealt with general policy and guidelines for recreation and resource management. This section provides the more detailed descriptions for the programs. The material is organized into 6 park units to ease discussion. (Figure 10)

3.1 TURNER UNIT

The most southernly park unit emcompasses the area south of the Highway 20 corridor. This area is zoned 'Wilderness' and 'Natural Environment'. It contains many significant natural features. Conservation is of primary importance. Its main recreational purpose is to provide backcountry hiking and canoeing opportunities. All of the unit is closed to hunting.

Wilderness Zone

This encompasses the Caribou Mountain/Ptarmigan Lake area, the Turner Lake chain, and the section of the Atnarko valley from the tote road south to Knot Lakes. Several private properties are located in the Stillwater-Lonesome Lake area including the original Edwards homestead. This has regional historic value.

This zone is one of the prime canoeing-hiking areas in Tweedsmuir. Turner Lake is the start of a seven lake canoe chain. The Atnarko trail provides foot access to the Turner Lake-Hunlen Falls area and continues on to Ptarmigan Lake. The Ptarmigan trail provides access to the scenic Panorama Ridge/Caribou Mountain area. Trails also link the Atnarko to the Precipice-Hotnarko area. The historic Palmer Precipice trail is in this area. The Knot Lakes are reached by trail from Lonesome Lake.

A formal campsite is provided on Turner Lake for hikers and canoeists. The Hunlen Wilderness Camp provides accommodation on Turner Lake and rents canoes to the public. Facilities on the canoe circuit are limited to portage trails and rustic campsites.

Most users reach Turner Lake and the Knot Lakes by float plane. Hiking use is light in the zone. The Hunlen Wilderness Camp provides about 1200 visitor nights of accommodation annually.

The Hunlen Wilderness Camp will continue to cater to canoeists. The camp will remain rustic.

Improvements in the Wilderness zone will be limited to trail development to provide present users a greater range of recreation opportunities. Canoeists and hikers will be provided day hiking

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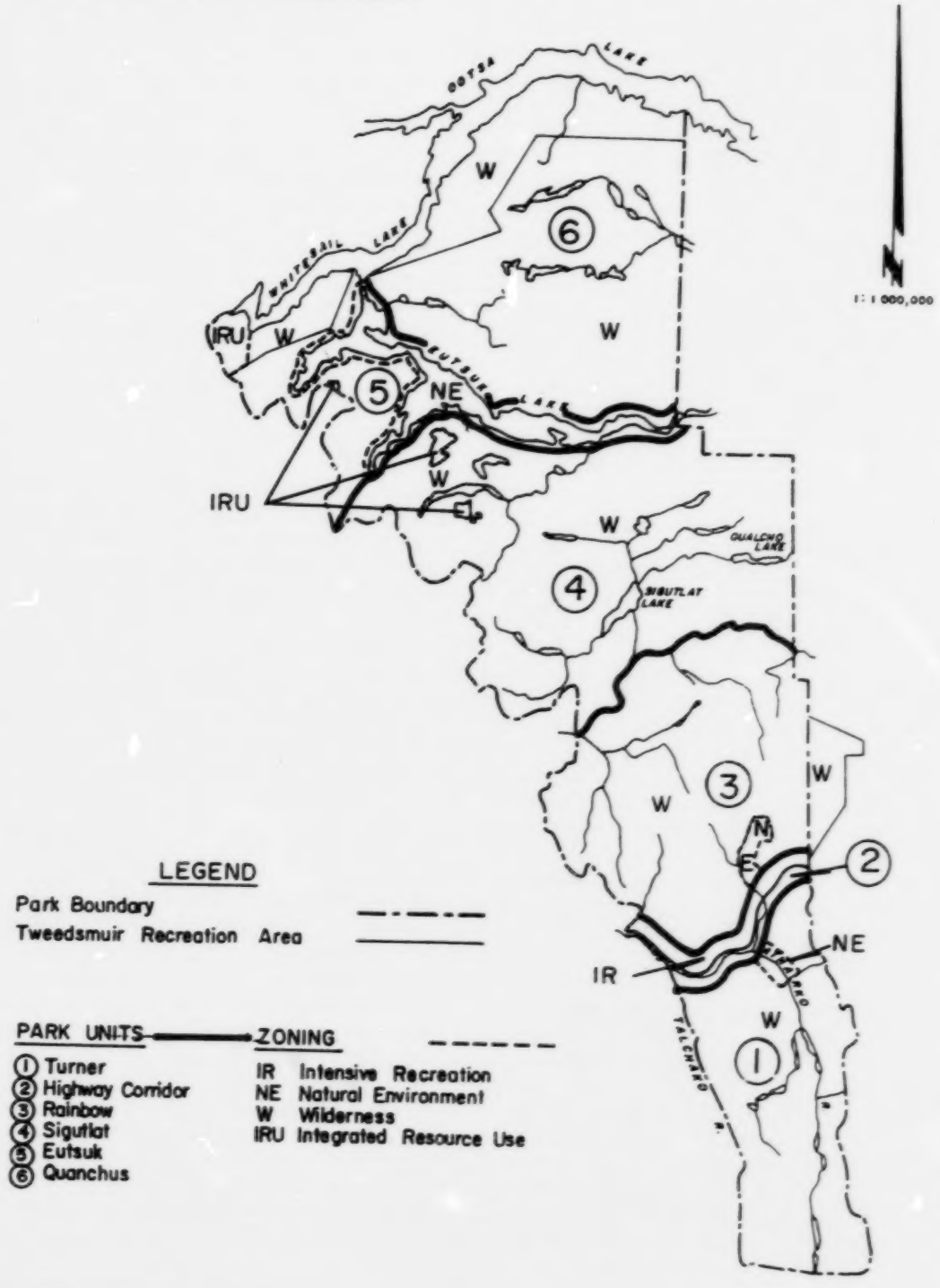
FIGURE: 10

PARK UNITS & ZONING



opportunities. Trails will link Turner Lake, Lonesome Lake, Ptarmigan Lake and the upper and lower Atnarko valley to provide hikers several loop trails.

Improvements will include :

- a trail to connect Ptarmigan Lake and the Atnarko Valley via Janet Creek; a second trail to link Ptarmigan Lake with the Stuie area via Tsill Creek; the Tsill trail may require a right-of-way across private property;

- a trail west from Kidney Lake to a viewpoint overlooking the Talchako Valley-Coast Mountains;

- a trail on the east side of Turner Lake to link up with the Talchako Valley viewpoint trail;

- a trail on the west side of Lonesome Lake to connect with the Turner Lake trail and the Atnarko trail.

Natural Environment

This includes an important stretch of salmon spawning river on the upper Atnarko and the old tote road to the Hotnarko River. The seven kilometre road is a rough, single lane track that is passable by truck. The road is now the start of the Atnarko trail, the main hiking route into the Turner Lake-Ptarmigan Lake area. Also included in the zone are a number of private properties straddling the Atnarko River.

Park facilities are limited to trail signing in the zone. The Ministry of Highways maintains the tote road with the assistance of B.C. Parks.

Improvements will include:

- clean-up of the trailhead at the end of tote road and upgrading of signing.

The tote road should remain at its present standard with only minor improvements made such as grading and gravelling.

Resource Management in the Turner Unit

a) Natural fire - Natural fire will be fought when it threatens recreation facilities and private property.

b) Trapping - The three registered traplines in the unit are incompatible with park unit objectives and will be acquired when available.

c) Salmon spawning - Protection of the Atnarko salmon spawning potential will be a priority. B.C. Parks will cooperate with Federal Fisheries in the management of this resource. The information program will continue to advise the public of the grizzly bear hazard during the spawning period.

d) Swans - The feeding of the swans at Lonesome Lake conflicts with the wildlife objectives for the park. B.C. Parks will take no active role in the feeding of the swans.

e) Private inholdings - The private properties in the Stillwater-Lonesome Lake area occupy most of the valley bottom forming a barrier to public access. Development of these properties for commercial or residential purposes could have a significant effect on the wilderness character of the upper Atnarko Valley. Acquisition of these properties will be a high priority. As an interim measure B.C. Parks will seek some form of agreement, such as a restrictive covenant, with the landowners to limit development.

- The private properties along the Atnarko River between the Hotnarko River and the highway are located on an important stretch of the Atnarko salmon spawning area. Land use could threaten this resource. These properties should be given a high priority for acquisition.

3.2 HIGHWAY CORRIDOR UNIT

This unit contains the land bordering Highway 20. All of the unit is zoned 'Intensive Use' with 'Development', 'Parkway' and 'Special Feature' subzones. (Figure 11)

The highway is the only road access to the park. It provides vehicle access to such features as the Atnarko Valley, Heckman Pass and the Mackenzie Heritage Trail and trail access to the Rainbow Range and the Turner Lake-Caribou Mountain area. Recreation is of primary importance. All of the unit is closed to hunting.

Development Subzone

Park facilities for the traveller include two campgrounds and a boat launch along the Atnarko River and picnic sites at several locations along the highway. The Park Headquarters for south Tweedsmuir is in this area. The subzone also includes the trailheads for all of the main trails in south Tweedsmuir including the Atnarko, Octopus Lake, Rainbow Range, Tweedsmuir and Mackenzie trails. The Burnt Bridge Creek picnic area is the main Mackenzie trail interpretive site in the park. Day hike trails in the main valley are limited to a short viewpoint trail at Burnt Bridge Creek, the Kettle Pond trail near Big Rock and the Esker trail from Stuie to Fisheries Pool.

FIGURE: 11

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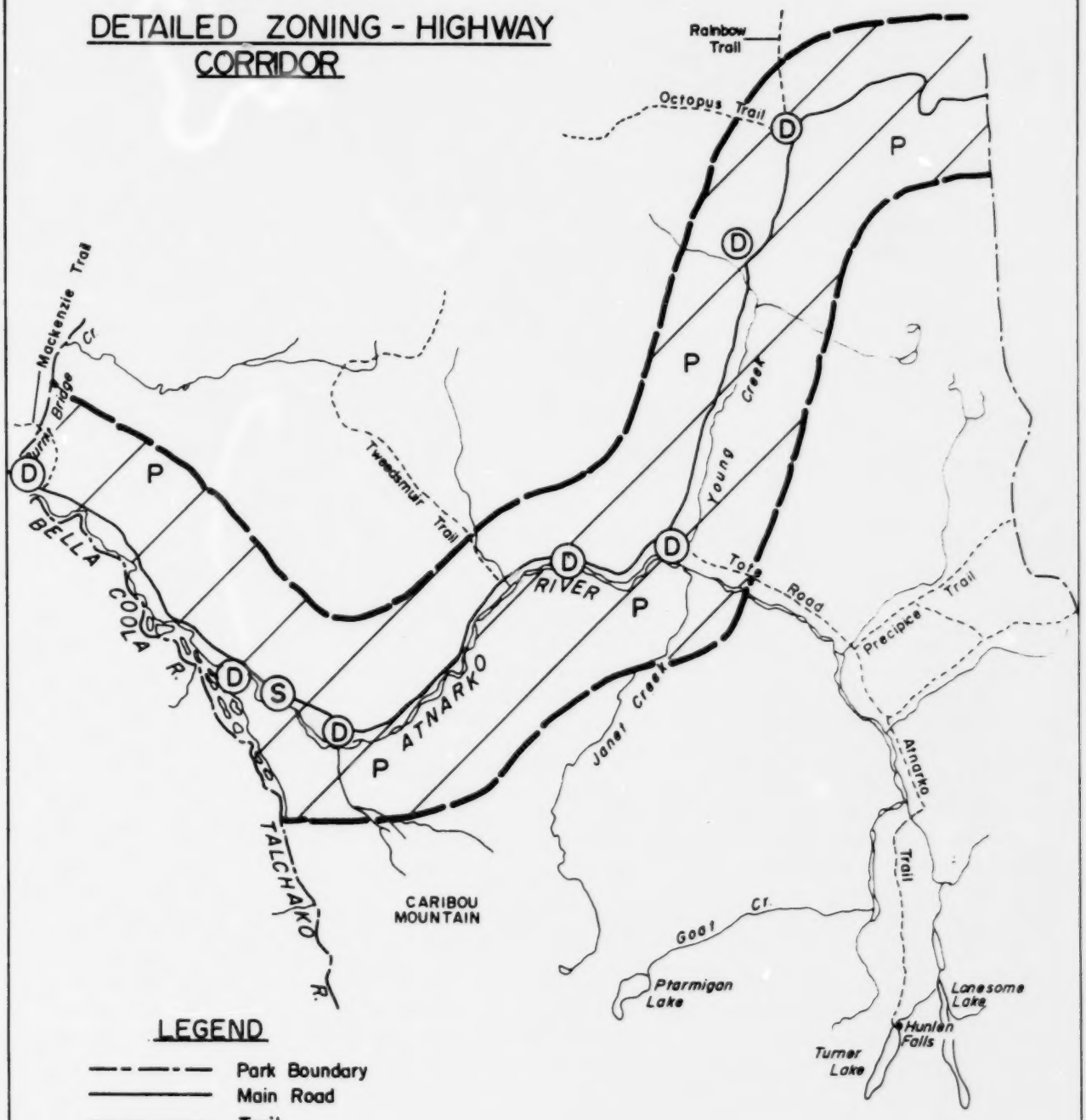
DETAILED ZONING - HIGHWAY CORRIDOR



LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Main Road
- Trail
- Zoning Boundary
- (D) Development
- (P) Parkway
- (S) Special Feature

SCALE: 1: 160,000

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The present level of facilities for the auto-access visitor is generally adequate. The amount of camping facilities should be sufficient for some time. However some improvements are needed to provide the highway traveller with additional road side opportunities to appreciate the park and the destination traveller with additional day use activities.

Improvements will include:

- a highway viewpoint adjacent to Saddlehorse Meadow at the east portal which will provide extensive views and interpretation of the Rainbow Range. The U.R.E.P. reserve on the east park boundary encompassing the viewpoint site should be added to the park.

- a highway viewpoint west of Heckman Pass which will provide views of the Atnarko Valley and the Caribou Mountain-Panorama Ridge area,

- upgrading of the East Branch trailhead,

- upgrading of the picnic site at the upper crossing of Young Creek,

- upgrading of the trailhead signing for the Atnarko trail,

- the development of a trailhead and crossing for the Janet Creek trail,

- development of a trailhead and crossing for the Tsill Creek trail to Caribou Mountain. This may require acquisition of a right-of-way through private property,

- day hike trails in the Atnarko area - i) a viewpoint trail in the Atnarko River-Young Creek junction area, ii) an Atnarko River loop trail accessible from the campground, and iii) trails to features such as Egon Lake and Friendly Village. Trail development to Friendly Village would be tied to the Mackenzie trail,

- addition of signs for features such as Horsetail Falls.

An abandoned section of the highway and an adjacent area of park in Heckman Pass have been used for local cross-country ski races. The Heckman Pass area may continue to be used for this purpose. Improvements will be limited to user maintained trails.

Special Feature and Parkway Subzones

The 'Special Feature' subzone covers an Indian pictograph. No activity will be encouraged in this subzone.

Management of the 'Parkway" subzones will emphasize retention of the visual values. Disturbance will be limited to that necessary for the maintenance of the highway and trails.

Resource Management in the Highway Corridor Unit

a) Natural fire - Natural fire will be fought throughout the unit.

b) Private inholdings - The present development of the private property is low-key and poses no problem. The commercial developments are compatible with park management objectives. However there is the potential that increased development of the private properties could seriously affect the travellers' park experience. The private property, other than the commercial recreation developments, should be acquired. As an interim measure the Central Coast Regional District will be requested to zone the properties for compatible uses.

c) Trapping - Portions of three traplines are located in the unit. These are incompatible with the objectives and will be phased out when the opportunity arises.

d) Fish resource - The lower Atnarko is an important salmon area which will continue to be protected as a high priority. The spawning channel was recently established on the Atnarko River for pink salmon and rearing channels provided for chinook. B.C. Parks will work with Federal Fisheries to set up an interpretation program for the facility that includes a system of trails around the channel.

e) Salmon fishing - The lower Atnarko has potential to provide salmon fishing opportunities in the summer months that would add a significant attraction for park visitation. B.C. Parks will request Federal Fisheries to extend the chinook sport fishing season, to adjust the chinook and steelhead catch and possession limit, and consider the establishment of a pink salmon sport fishery on the lower Atnarko.

f) Talchako logging - The Talchako forest road in the Bella Coola River area poses no problem to park management. However logging in the Talchako drainage is quite visible from the highway and has an adverse affect on the park visitor. B.C. Parks will work with the Ministry of Forests and Lands to minimize the visibility of the logging activity from the highway.

g) Mushroom picking - The recent increase in commercial mushroom picking poses a threat to these resources. The activity if carelessly done can have a serious impact on the mushroom population. Commercial mushroom picking is contrary to the purpose of the park and will be phased-out. B.C. Parks will monitor the activity and implement an informational program in the local community. Measures will be taken to restrict the activity if it continues to be a problem.

3.3 RAINBOW UNIT

This covers the Class A parkland from the Highway Corridor unit to the Dean River and the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area. The unit is zoned 'Wilderness' except for the snowmobile area which is 'Natural Environment'.

The unit contains some of the most important features of the park including the Rainbow Range, Mackenzie Valley and Octopus Lake as well as the Rainbow caribou herd and the Mackenzie Heritage Trail. The unit is very accessible from Highway 20. Conservation is important. Its main recreational purpose is to provide backcountry hiking and horse riding opportunities. All of the unit is closed to hunting.

Wilderness Zone

This zone contains a variety of natural and cultural features including the most scenic portion of the Mackenzie Heritage trail, the Rainbow caribou population and the volcanic Rainbow Range.

The Rainbows are the most accessible and popular hiking and horse riding area in the park. The trail system provides separate access from East Branch to the Rainbow Range and Octopus Lake. The Mackenzie trail bisects the unit entering on the east edge near the Dean River and exiting at Burnt Bridge Creek. Fly-in access to the Mackenzie trail and the Rainbow Range is possible in the Tanya Lakes area. The Beef trail also provides access to the Rainbow Range from the Anahim area. Numerous other 'grease' trails pass through the zone.

Most of the important features have trail access but there is limited connection between the areas. The unit could provide several loop trails of varying length.

No formal campsites have been established. Users make use of old cabins in the unit.

The primary purposes for this zone are to protect the natural values, such as the caribou population, and provide a variety of hiking and horse riding opportunities in a wilderness setting.

A network of trails will connect the main features with several auto and fly-in access points. The user will be able to choose from several loop trails starting at Highway 20.

Facilities will be limited to well marked trails and a few designated campsites along the Mackenzie trail and at major destinations or congregrating points such as Octopus Lake and Fish Lake. Rustic cabins may be added to the present system at one or two remote locations. Signing will be at a level that protects visitor safety.

Horse riding will be permitted on all trails. Separate trail sections may be required for hikers in the wetter areas.

Horse outfitting will be provided in the unit. The outfitter will offer a range of recreation services including fish guiding. Guided hiking will also be permitted. No permanent camps will be permitted in association with these activities.

The Dean River has had some use as a kayaking route but is not well suited for this purpose. No effort will be made to promote this type of use on the Dean River.

Improvements to the trail system will include:

- a trail connecting Octopus Lake and the Burnt Bridge Creek section of the Mackenzie trail,

- a trail connecting the Mackenzie Valley to the Beef trail and the Rainbows,

- establishment of campsites along the Mackenzie trail and at other points as required,

- provision of a footbridge or cable crossing for the Mackenzie trail at the Dean River,

- upgrading of existing trails and signing as required,

- addition of cabins as required,

- interpretation of the Mackenzie trail and other 'grease' trails such as the Slough Grass and the Salmon House Falls trail. B.C. Parks will work with the Mackenzie Trail Association on the development of trail guides.

Natural Environment Zone

This zone provides snowmobiling and skiing opportunities for local residents in the Heckman Pass area. The local ski club has established trails and a cabin for this use. The zone also contains a part of the Octopus Lake and Rainbow Range trails.

Snowmobiling and skiing will be restricted to the present 'snowmobile area' where such use poses no threat to resource values or other users. Improvements will be restricted to maintenance of trails and the ski club cabin.

Resource Management in the Rainbow Unit

a) Natural fire - Fire will be permitted to go

unchecked in the Dean River portion of the unit when there is no threat to valuable resources.

b) Hunting - The Class A Park portion of the unit will be closed to hunting.

- The game guide in the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area will be permitted to continue to operate. The objective is to close all of the park south of the Dean River to hunting. Game guiding in the Rainbow Range addition will be phased out when possible.

c) Trapping - Several traplines cover most of the east side of the unit including the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area. The traplines are mainly held by Indians who have traditionally used the area. Trapping will be phased out when there is a conflict with recreational use or wildlife management objectives.

d) Grazing - The existing committments for grazing in the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area will be accommodated. These will be eliminated when the Recreation Area land is reclassified to Class A Park status. No expansion of this activity will be permitted.

e) Forest - No commercial logging will occur in the Recreation Area portion of the unit. The Class A Park portion is closed to such use under the Park Act.

f) Road access - B.C. Parks will seek the cooperation of the Ministry of Forests and Lands to keep roads in the Rainbow Range area away from the east boundary of the Park and Recreation Area. B.C. Parks will request that logging roads that approach Tweedsmuir be put to bed.

g) Minerals - The Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area will be open to mineral exploration on a time-limited basis. The area will be reclassified to Class A Park after a minimum 10 year period if no measurable mineral potential is found. B.C. Parks will recommend that every effort be made to acquire the mineral interests if mineral potential is found.

h) Cultural resources - The obsidian deposits in the Anahim Peak area will be protected. No trail access will be developed. The deposits will be interpreted for visitors in the Highway Corridor.

i) Horse use - The size of horse parties and their length of stay can threaten the vegetation and lessen the wilderness experience of other parties. B.C. Parks will monitor horse use and adopt management guidelines for the size of parties and their use of the unit that will ensure adequte horse feed is available for the public and the outfitter throughout the season.

j) Wildlife - B.C. Parks will continue to cooperate with the Wildlife Branch in the management of the Rainbow caribou herd. Protection of the herd will be a high priority. Recreational use will not threaten this resource.

3.4 SIGUTLAT UNIT

This unit covers the central park area from just south of Eutsuk Lake to the Dean River. The area consists mainly of plateau and lakes with a strip of the Coast Mountains on its west side. The unit is zoned 'Wilderness' except for the two blocks of mineral claims in the Tesla Lake area which are 'Integrated Resource Use'. The mineral claims will be discussed in Section 3.5 - the Eutsuk Unit.

The main features of the unit are the large fishing lakes including Sigutlat, Qualcho and Tesla. Most of the unit is quite remote. Use of the unit is light. Access is by float plane. The unit has no development other than trapper cabins and trails.

A fish guide has a camp on Tesla Lake. Fish guides not under permit presently fly clients into the Sigutlat-Qualcho Lakes area.

The objective for the entire unit is to protect the resources and provide wilderness opportunities to fish and hunt.

Most of the unit will provide hunting opportunities for residents only. B.C. residents will be able to hunt both plateau and mountain species such as moose and mountain goat. Hunting will be regulated under the hunting regulations. Access will be by plane, boat or non-motorized means. Eutsuk Lake itself is closed to hunting. Cmmercial services will assist the hunters by providing air access and transporting their gear. No permanent camps or fixed stuctures will be permitted.

The success of the resident hunt will be evaluated after a few years. If the success level is low, B.C. Parks will consider the establishment of a new game guide area in the unit.

The north-east corner of the unit is part of a game guiding area. The objective will be to add this to the resident-only hunting area when the game guide no longer wishes to use the area.

A restricted number of fish guides will be issued permits to guide in the Sigutlat-Qualcho Lakes part of the unit. The horse outfitter in the Rainbow unit will be permitted to guide anglers in the Sigutlat-Qualcho Lakes area. Access will be by float plane or non-mechanized means. No permanent camps or fixed structures will be permitted but guide boats may be left on the lakes. No additional fish guides will be permitted to guide on Tesla Lake. Fishing will be managed through the fishing regulations to ensure protection of the fish resource.

Resource Management of the Sigutlat Unit

a) Natural fire - Fire will be permitted to burn whenever possible.

b) Trapping - All of the unit except for the former nature conservancy is covered by registered traplines which were established when the area was part of the Class B Park. In most cases the traplines are held by Indians who have traditionally relied on trapping in this area to support their way of life. Trapping is generally inappropriate in a Class A Park but will be permitted to continue in this unit. No additional traplines will be established. Trappers under Park Use Permit will be allowed to use snowmobiles for trapping purposes. No other form of ATV use will be permitted.

c) Minerals - Management guidelines for the mineral claims in the Tesla Lake area are provided in Section 3.5 - the Eutsuk Unit.

d) Habitat manipulation - No habitat management program will be implemented in the unit. Natural forces will be allowed to go unchecked. No fish stocking or enhancement will occur.

e) Road access - B.C. Parks will seek the cooperation of the Ministry of Forests and Lands to keep roads away from the east boundary of the park.

3.5 EUTSUK UNIT

This unit covers the Eutsuk Lake-Chikamin Range area. The Whitesail and the Haven Lake portions of the Recreation Area are included. The unit is zoned 'Natural Environment', 'Wilderness' and 'Integrated Resource Use'.

The 'Natural Environment' zone covers Eutsuk and Pondosy Lakes and a one kilometre strip of backshore surrounding the lakes. The 'Integrated Resource Use' zones encompasse the Haven Lake mineral claim area and the Lindquist Lake area. The rest of the unit is 'Wilderness'.

The unit contains many mountain and plateau features including the 75 kilometre long Eutsuk Lake, Pondosy Lake, Chikamin Range, the Mt. Haven glacier and the Redfern Rapids. Conservation is important but recreation is its primary purpose. It provides wilderness motorboating, canoeing, fishing, camping, hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities. All of the unit is closed to hunting.

Natural Environment Zone

The Eutsuk Lake area is one of the most significant parts of

Tweedsmuir. Eutsuk Lake cuts across all 3 natural regions in the park creating a unique opportunity to experience this wide range of landscapes. Eutsuk is the largest lake enclosed in a provincial park and it is one of a few to offer wilderness motorboating opportunities. Boaters can fish, see scenic mountains, glaciers, and wildlife, and camp on long sandy beaches.

A minimal level of facilities is provided for the boater including a rail portage linking Ootsa and Eutsuk Lakes, lakeshore campsites and a few rustic trails. Fishing guides have small fixed camps on Eutsuk Lake.

The objective will be to protect the natural values and maintain the unique range of water-access wilderness recreation opportunities.

Opportunities will be provided for motorboating, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing. No hunting will be permitted. Canoeing will be encouraged on Pondosy Lake.

The present level of facilities generally meets camper needs. Few improvements will be made in order to maintain the level of use and the wilderness experience.

Improvements will include:

- One or two additional small campsites will be established on the east end of Eutsuk Lake to accommodate present use. A campsite will be created on Pondosy Lake for canoeists and other boaters.

- The Chikamin portage will be upgraded . No provision will be made for boat access at Redfern Rapids.

Fish guiding will continue on Eutsuk Lake. There will be no increase in the number of fish guides. No increase in the number of fixed camps will be permitted until the impact of the current fishing pressure on the resource is known. Improvements to existing fish camps will be kept to a moderate level until this information is available.

Wilderness Zone

The upland portion of the unit contains valuable wildlife habitat and many scenic features. Use of the upland is limited to short hikes to features near the lake. Lack of trails restricts day hiking.

The objective will be to protect the natural features and provide boaters with a variety of day hikes around the lake. No hunting will be permitted.

Rustic trails will provide access to:

i) Surel Falls and Lake,

ii) Musclow Lake, and

iii) the alpine ridges of the Chikamin Range.

Integrated Resource Use Zone

This zone covers the Redbird Mountain block of mineral claims in the Haven Lake area and the Lindquist Lake area where a mine formerly operated. Also included for purposes of discussion are the two blocks of mineral claims in the Tesla Lake portion of the Sigutlat Unit.

Mineral exploration will take precedence over recreation in these zones. However exploration will have to take into account the special natural and recreation values of these zones.

Mineral exploration will be permitted on the existing claims. The Lindquist Lake area will be available for mineral evaluation and exploration on a time-limited basis. Resource Use Permits will be required for mineral exploration in the zones. The permits will contain guidelines to restrict loss of the natural, recreational and visual resources. No provision will be made for mechanized surface access during initial stages of exploration. Proposals for mechanized surface access will require an assessment of the impact on park values prior to the authorization of this activity through the permit process.

Development of a mine on the existing claims will have a significant impact on the wilderness values of the Eutsuk Lake area and is incompatible with park objectives. The objective will be to extinguish all of the claims south of Eutsuk Lake through purchase or forfeiture and reclassify the land to Class A Park status.

A mine in the Lindquist Lake basin with access from Whitesail Lake would seriously reduce the park values of this area but would have little impact on the rest of the park. B.C. Parks will review the status of the Lindquist Lake area should a mine go ahead. The land will be considered for reclassification to Class A Park status after a minimum 10 year period if no measurable mineral potential is found.

Resource Management of the Eutsuk Unit

a) Natural fire - Natural fires will be fought when valuable resources such as the campsites, rail portage and the guide facilities are threatened.

b) Recreation Area status - The existing mineral claims will be reclassified to Class A Park status if they are acquired or

lapse. The entire Whitesail portion of the Recreation Area will be considered for reclassification to Class A Park status if no mineral potential is found.

c) Trapping - One registered trapline is located in the unit. Trapping is incompatible with the objectives for the unit. The trapline will be acquired when it becomes available.

d) Hunting - The entire unit is closed to hunting. This continues the intent of the former nature conservancy to protect the wildlife and provide wildlife viewing opportunities in the Eutsuk Lake area.

3.6 QUANCHUS UNIT

This unit covers the area north of Eutsuk Lake including the Ootsa portion of the Tweedsmuir Recreation Area. The entire unit is zoned 'Wilderness'.

This unit consists of the rugged Quanchus Mountains of the Nechako Plateau. Access is difficult. Float planes are the main means of access. A few guide trails connect Ootsa and Whitesail Lakes to camps on several of the small lakes.

Two game guides operate in the unit. Hunting and fishing are the main recreation activities. The level of use is low. A few boaters camp along the Ootsa shoreline. Very little hiking or horse riding occurs because of the rugged terrain and the difficult access.

Development is limited to the guide trails and camps.

The objective will be to protect the wilderness nature of the unit and its natural values. Protection of the Eutsuk caribou herd will be a primary objective. The unit will provide wilderness hunting and fishing opportunities. Opportunities for boat camping will be provided on Whitesail Lake.

Improvements will be limited to the development of boat-access campsites at one or two locations on Whitesail Lake. No trails will be developed in the unit by B.C. Parks except short trails to features north of Eutsuk Lake, such as Redfish Lake. Guides will be responsible for maintenance of trails established for their purposes. The Andrews Bay boat launch will be legalized and upgraded.

Game guides will continue to use the unit. Their guide areas will be adjusted to include lands previously part of the guide areas prior to the establishment of the former nature conservancy. Guide

facilities will be limited to trails and small camps on the lakes. Accommodation in the fixed camps will continue to be in the form of cabins and tent frames. Lodges and other large structures will not be permitted.

Resource Management in the Quanchus Unit

a) Natural fire - Natural fire will be fought when there is a threat to the visual resources along Ootsa and Whitesail Lakes and to the guide facilities.

b) Wildlife - A wildlife management plan will identify the critical habitat for caribou, grizzly bear, mountain goat and moose and provide guidelines for their management. Consideration will be given to management of the habitat in the Recreation Area to enhance or protect wildlife populations. Methods used may include prescribed fire or selective removal of trees. However, no loss of visual resources along Ootsa Lake will be permitted.

c) Hunting - Resident and guided hunting will be permitted throughout the unit. Management will be through the hunting regulations. Guide quotas will be set at conservative levels to protect wildlife populations.

d) Trapping - Several registered traplines exist in the unit. Those in the Class A Park are contrary to the purposes of the park and will be phased out when they become available. The traplines in the Ootsa portion of the Recreation Area do not pose a problem. Acquisition of the Recreation Area traplines will depend on future reclassification of the Ootsa area to Class A Park status.

e) Road access - B.C. Parks will seek the cooperation of the Ministry of Forests and Lands to keep roads from being developed to the east boundary of the park.

f) Ecological Reserve - The undisturbed vegetation along the north slope of the Quanchus Range has ecological value for forestry research. B.C. Parks will consider the establishment of one or two ecological reserves in the north part of the unit in sites where there is no conflict with other users or with the objectives for wildlife management.

g) Recreation Area status - The Ootsa portion of the Tweedsmuir Recreation Area will be considered for reclassification to Class A Park after a minimum 10 year period when the objectives for wildlife management and the evaluation of mineral potential have been completed.

SECTION 4 - SUMMARY

4.1 PARK ROLE

Tweedsmuir will remain a large, protected wilderness providing a unique range of true wilderness recreation opportunities. Its secondary role is to provide auto-access recreation opportunities for Highway 20 travellers.

4.2 ZONING

Over 90% of Tweedsmuir is zoned 'Wilderness' where motorized use is limited to float planes for drop-off purposes only. Eutsuk Lake is zoned 'Natural Environment' to permit motorboat use. The Highway 20 Corridor is 'Intensive Recreation'. The three blocks of mineral claims and the Lindquist Lake area are zoned 'Integrated Resource Use'.

4.3 PARK MANAGEMENT

4.3.1 LAND AND TENURES

a) Park Boundaries

No park additions or deletions are required. The Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area after a minimum 10 year period will be reclassified to Class A status if mineral potential is low. The Whitesail and Ootsa portions may be reclassified if mineral potential is low and their wildlife values warrant reclassification.

b) Inholdings

Private inholdings will be acquired.

c) Grazing

The existing committments in the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area will be eliminated when the land is reclassified to Class A Park status.

d) Water Licenses

B.C. Parks will cooperate with the Water Management Branch to ensure that resource values are protected.

e) Minerals

No mineral claims will be permitted in the Class A Park.

Mineral exploration will be permitted on the existing mineral claims in the Recreation Area under Resource Use Permit. Time-limited claims will be allowed in Tweedsmuir Recreation Area.

Every effort will be made to acquire the existing mineral claims. The status of the Lindquist Lake area will be reviewed if a mine goes ahead. The Ootsa, Whitesail and Rainbow Range portions will be considered for reclassification if mineral potential is low.

f) Traplines

Trapping to be phased out in the Class A Park but will continue in the central park area and the Recreation Area until it conflicts with management objectives.

g) Recreation Guiding

This activity will continue.

4.3.2 WATER

The quality and the quantity of water in Tweedsmuir will be protected. Use of its water for industrial or other large scale purposes is incompatible.

4.3.3 VEGETATION

Tweedmuir's vegetation will be managed to allow a naturally evolving ecosystem. Wildlife values and important visual, recreational and ecological values will be protected.

Wildfire may occur where there is no threat to valuable resources. Prescribed fire may be used as a management tool. Critical wildlife habitat and special floral values will be protected.

Infestation will be monitored but go unchecked in most of the park. Valued resources will be protected.

No commercial logging will be permitted in the Class A Park. Selective removal of trees may be considered for wildlife purposes in the Ootsa portion of the Recreation Area if there is no loss of visual values.

4.3.4 WILDLIFE

The objective is to maintain the present mix of wildlife species in viable populations for their inherent value, for viewing, for hunting and for research.

B.C. Parks will i) work with other agencies to protect the caribou and grizzly bear populations, ii) maintain the moose population, iii) not undertake a wolf control program, iv) take no active role in the feeding of swans at Lonesome Lake, v) ensure the public is aware of the grizzly bear hazard on the Atnarko River during salmon spawning, and vi) provide opportunities to view all the major species in the park.

4.3.5 FISH

The objective is to conserve the fish population, ensure the quality of its habitat and provide a variety of angling opportunities.

Stocking of native species and small scale projects to enhance natural spawning capability are acceptable in intensive use zones.

4.3.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources will be protected and features such as the Mackenzie trail, Friendly Village and the obsidian deposits will be interpreted wherever possible.

4.3.7 RESEARCH

Research will be permitted that will increase our understanding of the resources and improve our ability to manage.

4.4 VISITOR SERVICES OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

4.4.1 INTRODUCTION

a) General Concept

The objectives are to provide a range of i) wilderness recreation opportunities and ii) auto-access recreation opportunities for Highway 20 travellers.

b) Access Strategy

Recreational access will be limited to that necessary for wilderness recreation objectives. This means i) no new roads, ii) trail improvements, primarily in south Tweedsmuir, kept to a minimum iii) horse use and float plane access are acceptable, iv) no helicopter access, v) snowmobile use only in the designated area in south Tweedsmuir.

c) Information Strategy

Emphasis will be on the wilderness nature of Tweedsmuir, to encourage the public to recreate in certain areas, and to ensure an awareness of the dangers of the park.

4.4.2 VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES

a) Auto-access sightseeing and destination - Facilities will

be provided along Highway 20 to encourage people to stay and hike.

b) Hiking - A range of hiking experiences will be provided with emphasis on the Rainbow Range and Caribou Mountain areas.

c) Horse riding - Horse use will be permitted in suitable areas and encouraged in the Rainbow Range and Quanchus Mountains areas. Horse use guidelines will be established to protect the resource.

d) Motorboating - Boating will be encouraged on Eutsuk Lake.

e) Canoeing - Wilderness canoeing opportunities will be provided in the Turner-Lonesome Lake and Eutsuk-Pondosy areas.

f) Angling - A range of fishing opportunities will be provided. Federal Fisheries will be requested to improve the Atnarko sport fishing.

g) Hunting - Guided/resident hunting will occur primarily north of Eutsuk Lake. A Resident-only hunting area will be established between Eutsuk Lake and the Dean River. No hunting will occur around Eutsuk Lake or south of the Dean River.

h) Winter Recreation - Snowmobiling/skiing opportunities will be provided near Heckman Pass.

4.4.3 RECREATION SERVICES

Commercial recreation services will be provided to increase the variety of wilderness recreation opportunities in a manner that is compatible with the conservation and wilderness objectives.

a) Fish guiding - This will be permitted in the Eutsuk Lake-Quanchus Mountains, Sigutlat-Qualcho Lake, Bella Coola-Atnarko River, Turner Lake and Knot Lakes areas. No new permits will be issued except for the Sigutlat-Qualcho Lake area.

b) Guided motorboat touring and water taxi service - This will be provided by the fish guides on Eutsuk Lake.

c) Guided canoe touring - This is limited to Eutsuk-Pondosy Lake and the Turner Lake chain. Permits may be issued for Eutsuk-Pondosy Lake.

d) Guided hiking - This will be permitted in the area from Dean River south to Knot Lakes.

e) Horse outfitting - The Sigutlat-Qualcho-Rainbow Range and the Quanchus Mountains areas will provide this activity. No new permits will be issued.

f) Game guiding - This will occur in the Quanchus Mountains, north of Qualcho Lake, and in the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area. The latter two will be phased out. The Quanchus Mountains guide areas will be adjusted.

g) Equipment rental - The present permittees will rent recreation equipment appropriate to their clients' wilderness needs.

h) Accommodation - Small scale commercial camps will be permitted in association with game and fish guiding activities in north Tweedsmuir and with the Turner Lake wilderness camp.

i) Aircraft access - Commercial transport of the public by aircraft will be permitted for drop off and pick up purposes only.

4.4.4 MANAGEMENT SERVICES

a) Headquarters - Atnarko headquarters will be used to manage south Tweedsmuir and Chikamin Bay for the north.

b) Park management - Management priorities will be Eutsuk Lake and the Highway 20 corridor followed by the patrol of the Rainbow Range and Turner Lake areas.

4.4.5 MARKETING

a) General strategy - To encourage use in the Highway Corridor, Rainbow Range, Turner Lake and Eutsuk Lake areas and participation in adventure tourism activities.

Promotional efforts will focus on south Tweedsmuir and tie into the regional tourism plan.

b) Product Lines -

i) auto-access - a 3 day camping-day hiking package in the Atnarko-Bella Coola area and Atnarko Valley day trips for salmon viewing,

ii) backcountry - a 3 to 7 day Eutsuk motorboat trip, a Rainbow Range wilderness hike/horse ride for 3 to 5 days, a 5 to 7 day Mackenzie trail hike, a wilderness hike of 3 to 5 days in the Caribou Mountain area, a 7 to 10 day wilderness hike into the Knot Lakes area, fly-in fishing trips to numerous lakes, some of which have fish guides offering accommodation and equipment rental or guided and resident hunting trips in central and north Tweedsmuir.

c) Markets - Market segmentation research will be done. In the interim promotional efforts will focus on regional residents, the Cariboo regional tourism market and the adventure tourism market.

4.5 PARK UNIT PLANS

4.5.1 TURNER UNIT

The unit will provide wilderness hiking in the Caribou Mountain and Knot Lakes areas and canoeing opportunities on the Turner Lake chain. All of the unit is zoned 'Wilderness' except for the tote road which is 'Natural Environment'. The unit is closed to hunting.

The Hunlen Wilderness Camp will continue to cater to canoeists. The trail system will be improved to provide canoeists and hikers a greater range of recreation opportunities. Trails will link Turner Lake, Lonesome Lake, Ptarmigan Lake, the Talchako viewpoint and the upper and lower Atnarko valley. The tote road will remain at its present standard.

a) Natural fire - Fire will be fought when it threatens valued resources.

b) Trapping - Traplines will be acquired.

c) Salmon spawning - Protection of the spawning grounds will be a priority.

d) Swans - B.C. Parks will take no active role in feeding the Lonesome Lake swans.

e) Private inholdings - Private property in the unit will be given a high priority for acquisition.

4.5.2 HIGHWAY CORRIDOR UNIT

This unit provides facilities for the Highway 20 traveller and trailhead access to the Rainbow Range, Mackenzie trail and the Caribou Mountain areas.

The present level of facilities is adequate. Additional road side opportunities are needed as well as day use opportunities for the destination traveller. Improvements will include i) an east portal highway viewpoint, ii) an Atnarko Valley viewpoint west of Heckman Pass, iii) upgrading of the East Branch trailhead and the upper Young Creek picnic site, iv) addition of the Janet Creek and Tsill Creek trailheads and crossings, and v) new day hike trails.

a) Natural fire - Fire will be fought throughout the unit.

b) Private inholdings - Acquire all but the commercially developed properties.

c) Trapping - Phase out when possible.

d) Fish resource - Protect the salmon area. In cooperation with

Federal Fisheries set up an interpretation program for the spawning facility.

e) Salmon fishing - Improve the sport fishing in the Atnarko River.

f) Talchako logging - Work with the Ministry of Forests and Lands to minimize the visibility of logging from the highway.

g) Mushroom picking - Phase out the activity.

4.5.3 RAINBOW UNIT

This provides wilderness hiking and horse riding opportunities in Rainbow Range and Mackenzie trail areas. All of the unit is zoned 'Wilderness' except for the 'snowmobile/ski area' which is 'Natural Environment'. The unit is closed to hunting.

A network of trails will connect Highway 20 to the main features. Trails will be well marked. Campsites will be established at major points. Rustic cabins may be added in remote locations. Horse outfitting and guided hiking services will be provided.

Snowmobiling/skiing will be restricted to the present area.

a) Natural fire - Fire will go unchecked when there is no threat to valuable resources.

b) Hunting - No hunting will occur in the Class A Park part of the unit. Game guiding in the Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area will be phased out when possible.

c) Trapping - Trapping will be phased out when it conflicts with management objectives.

d) Grazing - This will be eliminated in the Recreation Area when this land is reclassified to Class A Park status.

e) Forest - No commercial logging will occur in the unit.

f) Road access - B.C. Parks will request that logging roads approaching Tweedsmuir be put to bed.

g) Minerals - The Rainbow Range portion of the Recreation Area will be reclassified to Class A Park if mineral potential is low.

h) Cultural resources - The Anahim Peak obsidian deposits will be protected and interpreted in the Highway Corridor.

i) Horse use - Horse use guidelines will be established to manage this activity.

j) Wildlife - The Rainbow caribou herd will be protected as a high priority.

4.5.4 SIGUTLAT UNIT

This central park unit covers the fishing and hunting area between Eutsuk Lake and the Dean River including Sigutlat, Qualcho and Tesla Lakes. The unit is zoned 'Wilderness' except for the two blocks of mineral claims near Tesla Lake which are 'Integrated Resource Use'.

Resident-only hunting opportunities will be provided in most of the unit. Commercial services will assist the hunters by providing air access and transporting their gear. No fixed camps will be permitted. The game guide north of Qualcho Lake will be phased out when possible.

Fish guides will be issued permits to guide in the Sigutlat-Qualcho Lake area. No fixed camps will be allowed. Boats will be permitted. No additional fish guides will use Tesla Lake.

a) Natural fire - Fire will be permitted to burn whenever possible.

b) Trapping - Trapping will be permitted to continue.

c) Minerals - see the Eutsuk Unit.

d) Habitat manipulation - No habitat management or fish stocking will occur.

e) Road access - The Ministry of Forests and Lands will be requested to keep roads away from the park.

4.5.5 EUTSUK UNIT

This covers the popular motorboating area of Eutsuk and Pondosy Lakes and the wilderness hiking area of Chikamin Range-Surel Lake. The upland contains valuable wildlife habitat. Eutsuk-Pondosy Lakes and a kilometre strip of their backshore is zoned 'Natural Environment'. The rest of the upland is 'Wilderness' except for the Haven Lake mineral claims and the Lindquist Lake area which are 'Integrated Resource Use'. All of the unit is closed to hunting.

The present level of facilities generally meets the camper needs. Additional campsites will be provided on Eutsuk and Pondosy Lakes, the rail portage will be upgraded, and day hike trails will be developed to Surel and Musclow Lakes and the Chikamin Range.

Mineral exploration will be permitted on the existing claims under Resource Use Permits. Time-limited claims will be allowed in the Lindquist Lake area. The objective will be to

extinguish all of the claims south of Eutsuk Lake and reclassify the land to Class A Park status. The status of the Lindquist Lake area would be reviewed if a mine goes ahead.

a) Natural fire - Fire will be fought when valuable resources are threatened.

b) Recreation Area status - The existing mineral claims will be reclassified to Class A Park status if allowed to lapse. The Whitesail portion of the Recreation Area will be considered for reclassification after a minimum 10 year period if mineral potential is low.

c) Trapping - The trapline will be acquired when possible.

4.5.6 QUANCHUS UNIT

This consists of the Quanchus Mountains area used mainly for hunting and fishing. The unit is zoned 'Wilderness'. Protection of the Eutsuk caribou herd is a primary objective.

Development is limited to guide trails and camps. Boat camping opportunities will be provided on Whitesail Lake. The Andrews Bay boat launch will be legalized and upgraded.

Game guide areas will be expanded to include lands previously part of the guide areas prior to the establishment of the former nature conservancy.

a) Natural fire - Fire will be fought when valuable resources are threatened.

b) Wildlife - A wildlife management plan will be developed. Habitat in the Ootsa portion of the Recreation Area may be managed using prescribed fire or selective removal of trees.

c) Hunting - Guided/resident hunting will occur throughout the unit.

d) Trapping - Traplines in the Class A Park portion will be phased out when available. Acquisition of those in the Recreation Area portion will depend on future reclassification to Class A Park status.

e) Road access - The Ministry of Forests and Lands will be requested to keep roads away from the park.

f) Ecological reserve - One or two ecological reserves may be established in the north part of the unit where there is no conflict with management objectives.

g) Recreation Area status - The Ootsa portion of the Recreation Area will be considered for reclassification to Class A Park if mineral potential is low and when the wildlife management objectives have been established.

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